



KNOWSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

2010 - 2011

CONTENTS

	Page
1 Explanatory Foreword	2
2 Statement of Responsibilities	7
3 Main Financial Statements	
Movement in Reserves Statement	8
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	9
Balance Sheet	10
Cash Flow Statement	11
4 Explanatory Notes to the Accounts	12
5 Collection Fund Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and Explanatory Note	
6 Accounting Policies	
7 Glossary of Terms	

EXPLANATORY FOREWORD

1. INTRODUCTION

In preparing its annual Statement of Accounts, Knowsley Council adopts the relevant national and international accounting requirements. To comply with these accounting requirements, the Statement of Accounts is a long and complex document. This foreword aims to help readers understand the Statement of Accounts. It explains the various accounting statements; provides a summary of the Council's overall financial position at 31 March 2011; and explains the most significant matters that are reported in the detailed Statements.

You can also use the Council's website (www.knowsley.gov.uk) to access further related information including:

- Electronic versions of the Statement of Accounts (after the external audit inspection is complete)
- Council Tax information leaflet
- Council budget reports
- Corporate Plan

Your Comments

If you have any comments on the Statement of Accounts please contact Dan Barlow, Assistant Borough Treasurer by email at dan.barlow@knowsley.gov.uk or by phone on 0151 443 3622.

You can also request a version of the Statement of Accounts in a more accessible format - for example translated into another language or available in larger print. Please call 0151 443 3064 if you wish to discuss the options that are available.

2. PURPOSE OF THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

The Statement of Accounts aims to help readers understand the Council's financial position at the end of the year; give assurance that expenditure was efficient and effective; and demonstrate that the Council is financially viable. To achieve this, the Statement of Accounts provides information on the following areas:

- What money was spent and received during the year.
 - The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement shows the day-to-day revenue costs of providing services, and the income Knowsley received from Government Grant, fees and charges and Council Tax.
- What assets the Council holds, what it is owed and what it owes to others.
 - The Balance Sheet shows:
 - How much money is set aside in general balances, provisions and reserves;
 - How much money was spent on acquiring or improving assets (capital expenditure);
 - How much money is owed to the Council (debtors) and by the Council (creditors); and,
 - The Council's share of the Pensions Fund Liability.

3. THE ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

The individual statements within the overall Statement of Accounts are as follows:

Statement of Responsibilities: This sets out the financial responsibilities of Council Members and the Council's Chief Financial Officer – the Borough Treasurer.

Main Financial Statements

Movement in Reserves Statement: This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council. It also shows the differences between the balance on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the General Fund Balance.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement: This summarises the Council's income and expenditure for the year. It also shows how the Council paid for the day-to-day cost of its services.

Balance Sheet: This sets out the financial position of the Council at the end of the financial year, and gives details of the Council's assets and liabilities.

Cash Flow Statement: This shows where the Council's money came from and how the Council spent the money. It also reflects the change in the Council's financial structure during the year.

Explanatory Notes: Each of the main statements is accompanied by explanatory notes that provide additional analysis and help to provide a wider context to the figures.

Collection Fund: This shows the income collected from the Council Tax and Business Rates.

Accounting Policies: These explain how the Council accounts for its expenditure and income using the recommended accounting practices.

4. 2010/11 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The Council receives money from several sources to pay for the day to day costs of providing services. Larger items of expenditure on capital assets are also paid for by borrowing or loans.

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement shows the overall income and expenditure relating to all of the Council's services in the year; the principal sources of finance (such as Government grants and Council Tax); and the net position at the end of the year. The Council uses the Government's "Best Value" analysis to show the cost of services, with adjustments for other expenditure that relates to the Council's overall operations rather than specific service provision.

In 2010/11 most of the Council's operating costs were funded directly by the Government through the Revenue Support Grant and other general grants (£44.772m) and allocations of national non-domestic rates (£103.453m). In 2010/11 the Council received £54.036m from the overall Council Tax receipts within the Collection Fund.

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement does not include amounts set aside by the Council in reserves for future years, or a number of other statutory adjustments that the Government requires to avoid any undue impact on the Council Tax payer. These adjustments are recorded in the Movement in Reserves Statement, which shows how much money has actually been added to the Council's General Fund at the end of the year.

In 2010/11 the Council's final outturn position after setting aside resources in earmarked reserves (as reported to the Council's Cabinet on 22 June 2011) was a small surplus of £0.150m against the total net budget for the year. The Council's accounts reflect this as an increase in the General Fund balance at 31 March 2011.

The overall levels of Council income and expenditure are summarised in the table below.

<u>2010/11 Income and Expenditure</u>			
	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000
Operating Expenditure (detailed in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement)			
Cost of Council Services	640,094	(483,985)	156,109
Other Operating Expenditure	23,152	0	23,152
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	56,129	(28,959)	27,170
Total			206,431
Funding from Government Grant and Taxpayers			
Council Tax Receipts (including parish precepts)			(54,036)
Area Based Grant			(29,750)
Government Revenue Support Grant			(15,022)
National Non Domestic Rates allocation			(103,453)
Capital Grants			(37,238)
Total			(239,499)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(49,393)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(82,461)
<u>Less</u>			
Statutory Accounting Adjustments (detailed in Movement in Reserves)			82,311
Increase in General Fund Balance			(150)

5. THE COUNCIL'S ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

The Balance Sheet and the accompanying notes show the Council's financial position at the year end and reflect everything that the Council owes and is owed at that date. As a result of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement final position, the total General Fund balance at 31 March 2011 has risen to £5.270m which is in line with the Council's approved policy to provide a prudent financial safety-net for unforeseen events.

In addition to General Fund balances, the Council also sets money aside in provisions (for future expenditure relating to an event that has already occurred) and reserves (for likely future commitments and policy developments). By putting money aside now to pay for future commitments, the Council ensures that it manages the impact of its spending in a planned and prudent way – avoiding sudden changes in Council Tax and making sure that it can afford to develop and improve services in the future. At 31 March 2011, the total of the Council's reserves (excluding those held by schools) was £52.392m.

The Council's bank overdraft facility amounts to £7.345m, but cash balances are monitored on a daily basis and investments adjusted to ensure any overdraft charges are minimised.

Capital Expenditure

All capital expenditure, and how the Council paid for it, is detailed in the Balance Sheet and the accompanying notes. In 2010/11, the Council's total capital expenditure (including revenue expenditure funded from capital resources) was £70.207m – which was spent on acquiring or improving Council buildings and other capital assets.

The main item of capital expenditure (£20.655m) related to the Council's Future Schooling in Knowsley programme. This programme has seen the Council investing over £250m in seven new centres for learning, seven new primary schools and a new special educational needs facility. This expenditure has been funded by Government grant and the total grant spent during 2010/11 was £44.273m. During the year there were also schemes totalling £14.097m funded by Council borrowing. A full analysis of borrowing and loan maturities is given in the notes to the accounts.

Pension Fund Liability

The Balance Sheet also reflects the Council's participation in the Local Government Pension Scheme (administered by Merseyside Pension Fund). At the end of 2010/11, the Council's share of the overall Fund liability (excluding Teachers) was £209m – compared with £273m the previous year.

This liability is determined in accordance with International Accounting Standard (IAS) 19 and reflects the difference between the current value of pension fund liabilities and assets. Asset returns in 2010/11 exceeded original expectations, indeed the overall value of assets has risen by £22.173m (5.6%). During the year, it was announced that future pension increases under the Scheme are to be linked to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rather than the Retail Price Index (RPI). This has given rise to a past service gain within the accounting figures, and a consequent reduction in the year end liabilities of £41.613m (6.2%). The combined effect of the above two items is a 23% decrease in the net liability to £209m.

While the Accounts show the pension liability position at 31st March 2011, in reality the actual pension payments will not be made until many years into the future. Therefore in the short term the Council's share of the overall Fund liability has had a significant negative impact on the net worth of the Council. This will however be recovered, as the Council and its employees pay contributions into the Pension Fund at a rate which is calculated by the Fund's actuary to ensure that the position is balanced in the longer term based upon forecast movements in investment values and changes in actuarial assumptions.

6. MAJOR INFLUENCES ON THE 2010/11 ACCOUNTS

During 2010/11 there have been a number of developments that have had an unusual influence on the Council's accounts. The major items are set out below:

International Financial Reporting Standards

The Government believes that in the increasingly global economy there should be easier comparison of organisations and of their accounts. To achieve this, public sector organisations have adopted International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The 2010/11 Statement of Accounts is the first year that the Council has produced its accounts under this new guidance. The introduction of these new standards means that the Council has had to restate its opening 2009/10 and closing 2009/10 figures in line with the new requirements.

Equal Pay Act (Amendment) Regulations 2003

As in previous years, the 2010/11 Statement of Accounts reflects the recommended accounting practice for potential compensation claims under the Equal Pay Act (Amendment) Regulations 2003 in relation to equal pay for work of equal value. The Council has accounted for its estimate of the potential liability of £26.427m, and, as required under the accounting regulations, offsets this so that there is no impact of the liability on the Council's balances.

It should be noted that the Council's comprehensive job evaluation and harmonisation review is ongoing and is aimed at resolving this issue. The figure included in the accounts does not indicate an expected settlement figure and it does not prejudice the Council's ongoing negotiations on this matter.

Instability in the Global Economy

During the year there continued to be concerns about the future stability of the UK economy and banking sector, and the impact on the security and value of local authority investments. Knowsley Council has a very prudent approach to the way it makes investments and only lends to institutions with very high credit ratings. As a result of this approach it avoids exposure to the same risks that have affected other UK authorities and organisations. However the unprecedented events in the banking sector in recent years demonstrate that even top-rated institutions can be vulnerable so the Council makes sure it constantly reviews its investments to minimise any undue risks.

Early Retirement and Voluntary Severance Costs

As part of its strategy for balancing the 2011/12 revenue budget the Council incurred significant one-off costs arising from an enhanced early retirement and voluntary severance offer to employees. From the overall cost (estimated at £9.734m at 31 March 2011) the Government has given permission for £2.396m to be funded from capital resources with the balance to be funded from revenue resources. The amount funded from capital resources is not reflected on the Council's balance sheet as an asset, but is instead charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute.

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

THE AUTHORITY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Council is required to:

- make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Council, that officer is the Borough Treasurer;
- manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets; and,
- arrange the approval of the Statement of Accounts by the Governance and Audit Committee.

THE BOROUGH TREASURER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Borough Treasurer is responsible for the preparation of the Council's Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)/Local Authority (Scotland) Accounts Advisory Committee Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom ('the Code of Practice').

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Borough Treasurer has:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently;
- made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent; and,
- complied with the Code of Practice.

The Borough Treasurer has also:

- kept proper accounting records which were up to date; and,
- taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

BOROUGH TREASURER'S STATEMENT

The Council's 2010/11 Statement of Accounts present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council at 31 March 2011 and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2011.



JAMES DUNCAN CPFA
Borough Treasurer

30 June 2011

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other reserves. The surplus or deficit on the provision of services line shows the true economic cost of providing the Council's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance for council tax setting purposes. The net increase or decrease before transfers to earmarked reserves line shows the statutory General Fund Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves undertaken by the Council.

	General Fund Balance £000	Earmarked General Fund Reserves £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Total Usable Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total Council Reserves £000
Balance at 1 April 2009	4,999	59,186	0	9,496	73,681	151,271	224,952
<u>Movement in Reserves during 2009/10</u>							
Surplus / (Deficit) on Provision of Services	(97,749)				(97,749)		(97,749)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure					0	(80,201)	(80,201)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(97,749)				(97,749)	(80,201)	(177,950)
Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations (Note 7)	93,833		0	68	93,901	(93,901)	0
Net Increase / (Decrease) before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	(3,916)	0	0	68	(3,848)	(174,102)	(177,950)
Transfers to / from Earmarked Reserves (Note 44)	4,037	(4,037)			0		0
Increase / (Decrease) in 2009/10	121	(4,037)	0	68	(3,848)	(174,102)	(177,950)
Balance at 31 March 2010 carried forward	5,120	55,149	0	9,564	69,833	(22,831)	47,002
Balance at 31 March 2010	5,120	55,149	0	9,564	69,833	(22,831)	47,002
<u>Movement in Reserves during 2010/11</u>							
Surplus / (Deficit) on Provision of Services	33,068				33,068		33,068
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure						49,393	49,393
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	33,068		0		33,068	49,393	82,461
Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations (Note 7)	(33,444)		0	(3,652)	(37,096)	37,096	0
Net Increase / (Decrease) before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	(376)	0	0	(3,652)	(4,028)	86,489	82,461
Transfers to / from Earmarked Reserves (Note 44)	526	(526)			0		0
Increase / (Decrease) in 2010/11	150	(526)	0	(3,652)	(4,028)	86,489	82,461
Balance at 31 March 2011 carried forward	5,270	54,623	0	5,912	65,805	63,658	129,463

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

This statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. Authorities raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

2009/10				2010/11		
Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000		Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Expenditure £000
Council Services						
106,825	(48,192)	58,633	Adult Social Care	122,582	(49,993)	72,589
22,568	(20,140)	2,428	Central Services to the Public	23,425	(21,389)	2,036
116,963	(71,183)	45,780	Cultural, Environmental, Regulatory & Planning Services	151,417	(94,525)	56,892
329,383	(196,858)	132,525	Education and Children's Services	240,032	(200,125)	39,907
11,694	(1,531)	10,163	Highways, Roads & Transport Services	16,046	(1,985)	14,061
72,806	(71,873)	933	Housing Services	81,911	(80,750)	1,161
5,679	(550)	5,129	Corporate & Democratic Core	4,681	(119)	4,562
3,349	0	3,349	Non Distributed Items	0	(35,099)	(35,099)
669,267	(410,327)	258,940	Cost of Services	640,094	(483,985)	156,109
21,943	(848)	21,095	Other Operating Expenditure	23,152	0	23,152
46,807	(22,562)	24,245	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	56,129	(28,959)	27,170
0	(206,531)	(206,531)	Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income	0	(239,499)	(239,499)
		97,749	(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services			(33,068)
		(2,858)	Surplus on Revaluation of Fixed Assets			(12,581)
		83,059	Actuarial (Gains)/Losses on Pension Assets/Liabilities			(36,812)
		80,201	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(49,393)
		177,950	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(82,461)

BALANCE SHEET

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council. The net assets of the Council (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Council. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the Council may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use (for example the Capital Receipts Reserve that may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt). The second category of reserves is those that the Council is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves include reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'.

Balance at 1 April 2009 £000	Balance at 31 March 2010 £000		Note	Balance at 31 March 2011 £000
479,397	470,266	Property, Plant and Equipment	24	514,704
36,691	35,877	Investment Property	25	31,729
2,793	1,966	Intangible Assets	26	2,078
10,523	3	Long Term Investments	30	3
767	1,222	Long Term Debtors	31	1,125
530,171	509,334	Long Term Assets		549,639
100,219	88,477	Short Term Investment	33	87,121
1,031	862	Assets Held for Sale	27	0
388	319	Inventories	32	332
18,255	26,480	Short Term Debtors	34	25,967
27,971	28,697	Cash and Cash Equivalents	35	5,511
147,864	144,835	Current Assets		118,931
(10,101)	(5,933)	Bank Overdrawn	38	(7,345)
(16,548)	(1,972)	Short Term Borrowing	36	(4,925)
(37,026)	(38,492)	Short Term Creditors	37	(43,459)
(4,514)	(3,365)	Provisions	41	(3,431)
(68,189)	(49,762)	Current Liabilities		(59,160)
(20,510)	(25,705)	Provisions	41	(32,179)
(125,733)	(125,435)	Long Term Borrowing	39	(122,184)
(200,116)	(292,224)	Pension Liability	45	(227,623)
(24,349)	(92,853)	Other Long Term Liabilities		(92,429)
(14,186)	(21,188)	Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	23	(5,532)
(384,894)	(557,405)	Long Term Liabilities		(479,947)
224,952	47,002	Net Assets		129,463
(73,681)	(69,833)	Usable Reserves	44	(65,805)
(151,271)	22,831	Unusable Reserves	45	(63,658)
(224,952)	(47,002)	Total Reserves		(129,463)

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Council during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Council generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities. The amount of net cash flows arising from operating activities is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations of the Council are funded by way of taxation and grant income or from the recipients of services provided by the Council. Investing activities represent the extent to which cash outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to the Council's future service delivery. Cash flows arising from financing activities are useful in predicting claims on future cash flows by providers of capital (i.e. borrowing) to the Council.

2009/10		2010/11
£000		£000
97,749	Net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services	(33,068)
(534,734)	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	(267,163)
435,578	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing or financing activities	272,361
(1,407)	Net cash flows from Operating Activities (Note 51)	(27,870)
(24,257)	Net cash flows from Investing Activities (Note 52)	51,785
20,770	Net cash flows from Financing Activities (Note 53)	683
(4,894)	Net increase or decrease in cash and cash equivalents	24,598
(17,870)	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	(22,764)
(22,764)	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period (Notes 35 and 38)	1,834

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. TRANSITION TO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS

The Statement of Accounts for 2010/11 is the first to be prepared on an IFRS basis. Adoption of the IFRS based Code has resulted in the restatement of various balances and transactions, with the result that some amounts presented in the financial statements are different from the equivalent figures presented in the Statement of Accounts for 2009/10.

The following tables explain the material differences between the amounts presented in the 2009/10 financial statements and the equivalent amounts presented in the 2010/11 financial statements.

Government Grants

Under the Code, grants and contributions for capital schemes are recognised as income when they become receivable. Previously, grants were held in a grants deferred account and recognised as income over the life of the assets which they were used to fund.

As a consequence of adopting the accounting policy required by the Code, the financial statements have been amended as follows:

- The balance on the Government Grants Deferred Account at 31 March 2009 has been transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account in the opening 1 April 2009 Balance Sheet.
- Portions of government grants deferred were previously recognised as income in 2009/10; these have been removed from the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the comparative figures.
- Grants were received in 2009/10 but not completely used. Previously, no income was recognised in respect of these grants, which would be shown in the Grants Unapplied Account within the liabilities section of the Balance Sheet. Following the change in accounting policy, the grant has been recognised in full, and the unused element is transferred to the Capital Grants Unapplied Account within the reserves section of the Balance Sheet.

This has resulted in the following changes being made to the 2009/10 financial statements:

Opening 1 April 2009 Balance Sheet

	2009/10 Statements £000	Adjustments Made £000
Government Grants Deferred Account	(93,754)	93,754
Capital Adjustment Account	(244,092)	(93,754)

2009/10 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

	2009/10 Statements £000	Adjustments Made £000
Education and Children's Services	133,591	1,928
Adult Social Care	58,368	596
Cultural, Environmental, Regulatory and Planning	51,667	1,300

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Short-term accumulating compensated absences

Short-term accumulating compensated absences refers to benefits that employees receive as part of their contract of employment, entitlement to which is built up as they provide services to the Council. The most significant benefit covered by this heading is holiday pay.

Employees build up an entitlement to paid holidays as they work. Under the Code, the cost of providing holidays and similar benefits is required to be recognised when employees render service that increases their entitlement to future compensated absences. As a result, the Council is required to accrue for any annual leave earned but not taken at 31 March each year. Under the previous accounting arrangements, no such accrual was required.

The Government has issued regulations that mean local authorities are only required to fund holiday pay and similar benefits when they are used, rather than when the employees earn the benefits. Amounts are transferred to the Accumulated Absences Account until the benefits are used.

Accruing for short-term accumulating compensated absences has resulted in the following changes being made to the 2009/10 financial statements:

Opening 1 April 2009 Balance Sheet

	2009/10 Statements £000	Adjustments Made £000
Provisions	(21,843)	(3,181)
Accumulated Absences Account	0	3,181

31 March 2010 Balance Sheet

	2009/10 Statements £000	Adjustments Made £000
Provisions	(26,343)	(2,727)
Accumulated Absences Account	0	2,727

2009/10 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

Net Cost of Service	2009/10 Statements £000	Adjustments Made £000
Education and Children's Services	133,591	(385)
Adult Social Care	58,368	(71)
Cultural, Environmental, Regulatory and Planning	51,667	2

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Levies

Under the Code, levies are held within Other Operating Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Previously, the Council has shown these within the relevant Cost of Service line. As a result, the levies have been removed from Cost of Service.

2009/10 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

	2009/10 Statements £000	Adjustments Made £000
Cultural, Environmental, Regulatory and Planning	51,667	(7,999)
Highways, Roads and Transport Services	21,860	(12,796)

2. ACCOUNTING STANDARDS THAT HAVE BEEN ISSUED BUT HAVE NOT YET BEEN ADOPTED

Heritage Assets: Impact of the adoption of the new standard on the financial statements – effective for the 2011/12 financial year

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2011/12 (the Code) has introduced a change in accounting policy in relation to the treatment of heritage assets held by the Council, which will need to be adopted fully in the 2011/12 financial statements.

The Council is required to disclose information relating to the impact of the accounting change on the financial statements as a result of the adoption by the Code of a new standard that been issued, but is not yet required to be adopted by the Council, in this case, heritage assets. As is set out above, full adoption of the standard will be required for the 2011/12 financial statements. However, the Council is required to make disclosure of the estimated effect of the new standard in these (2010/11) financial statements. The new standard will require that a new class of asset, heritage assets, is disclosed separately on the face of the Council's Balance Sheet in the 2011/12 financial statements.

Heritage assets are assets that are held by the Council principally for their contribution to knowledge or culture. The Council currently holds no heritage assets on its Balance Sheet.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

3. CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

In applying the accounting policies, the Council has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts are:

Local Government Finance Review

The Government is undertaking a fundamental review of the mechanisms through which funding for local government is allocated. There is the potential for aspects of this review to affect the Council significantly – for example changes relating to the means in which national non domestic rates are collected and redistributed. The Council has assumed that such changes will not affect its ability to operate as a going concern.

Private Finance Initiative Assets

The Council has entered into a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) arrangement with Transform Schools for the provision of seven Centres for Learning. The contract includes Hard Facilities Management for a period of 25 years from service commencement, with a contract expiry date of 31 August 2034. Following the guidance given in the Code and the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee interpretation for service concession arrangements (IFRIC 12), the Council has concluded that the four Centres for Learning which are Community schools should remain on the Balance Sheet.

Group Accounts

The Council, where it has an interest in entities that would otherwise be regarded as subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures under the Companies Acts, is required to produce supplementary information in the form of summarised group accounts. The Council has reviewed its relationships with third parties under these requirements and has concluded that for 2010/11 it has no such interests.

Single Status

The Council is aware that there is a risk that possible future costs could arise from the local implementation of the national single status agreement. The Council has undertaken a comprehensive job evaluation exercise and is currently moderating with the aim of resolving the issue with a break even outcome in respect of future costs. It is however recognised that there may be a one-off cost to the Council in respect of implementing the revised pay arrangements, but the Council is currently working towards achieving a settlement that is cost neutral.

Componentisation of Fixed Assets

Under the Code guidelines each component of an item of Property, Plant and Equipment should be separately identified and depreciated where the cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the asset. Authorities are only required to follow these requirements where significant components of material items of Property, Plant and Equipment have been identified. The Council has determined that only assets with a value of above £5m will be subject to componentisation.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

4. ASSUMPTIONS MADE ABOUT THE FUTURE AND OTHER MAJOR SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

The Statement of Accounts contains estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the Council about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates.

The items in the Council Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2011 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

- Property, Plant and Equipment – if the useful life of assets is reduced then depreciation will increase and the carrying amount of the asset on the Balance Sheet will fall. As at 31 March 2011, the value of Property, Plant and Equipment held on the Balance Sheet is £514.704m.
- Provisions – a provision is included in the Balance Sheet at 31 March 2011 of £26.427m for the Council's estimate of the maximum expected costs in relation to compensation claims made under the Equal Pay (Amendment) Regulations 2003. The Council is currently conducting a comprehensive job evaluation and harmonisation review which is aimed at resolving this issue. This amount does not indicate an expected final settlement figure.
- Pensions Liability – estimation of the net liability in relation to the Merseyside Pension Fund depends on a number of complex judgements determined by the Funds appointed actuaries. Changes in these assumptions can have a significant impact on the net liability. As at 31 March 2011, the total pension liability, including Teachers Pensions is £227.623m.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

5. MATERIAL ITEMS OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

Pension Fund Liability

In his budget statement on 22 June 2010, the Chancellor announced that the government would start to increase public service pensions in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rather than the Retail Price Index (RPI), which has been the practice in the past.

The Council participates in the Local Government Pension Scheme which is administered by Merseyside Pension Fund. In calculating the Council's pension liability as at 31 March 2011, the Fund actuaries have allowed for this change by assuming that over the long term CPI will be less than RPI by 0.5%. The effect is to reduce the calculated value of the employer's liability for accounting purposes, normally by about 5-8%. This is accounted for as a past service gain in the accounts of £38.753m which significantly contributes to the overall reduction in the total liability of £63.786m

Equal Pay

As in previous years, the 2010/11 Statement of Accounts reflects the recommended accounting practice for potential compensation claims under the Equal Pay Act (Amendment) Regulations 2003 in relation to equal pay for work of equal value. The Council has accounted for its estimate of the potential liability of £26.427m, an increase of £6.398m and, as required under the accounting regulations, offsets this so that there is no impact of the new liability on the Council's balances.

Early Retirement and Voluntary Severance Costs

As part of its strategy for balancing the 2011/12 revenue budget the Council incurred significant one-off costs arising from an enhanced early retirement and voluntary severance offer to employees. From the overall cost (estimated at £9.734m at 31 March 2011) the Government has given permission for £2.396m to be funded from capital resources with the balance to be funded from revenue resources. The amount funded from capital resources is not reflected on the Council's balance sheet as an asset, but is instead charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute.

6. EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

Since the financial year end of 31 March 2011, there have been no significant post balance sheet events that have occurred during the preparation of the Council's Statement of Accounts which would require additional adjustment or disclosure. Events after the balance sheet date are reflected up to 30 June 2011, as authorised by the Borough Treasurer.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

7. ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATION

This note details the adjustments that are made to the total comprehensive income and expenditure recognised by the Council in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice to the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the Council to meet future capital and revenue expenditure.

2010/11

	Usable Reserves			
	General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Unusable Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Adjustments involving the Capital Adjustment Account:				
<u>Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</u>				
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(24,188)			24,188
Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	(4,843)			4,843
Movement in the market value of Investment Properties	(4,109)			4,109
Amortisation of intangible assets	(662)			662
Capital grants and contributions	34,375			(34,375)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(2,553)			2,553
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(1,385)			1,385
<u>Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</u>				
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	8,254			(8,254)
Principal repayment on external loans	243			(243)
Capital expenditure charged against General Fund	2,763			(2,763)
Adjustments involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:				
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	2,863		(2,863)	
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account			6,515	(6,515)
Adjustments involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:				
Transfer of sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	997	(997)		
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new expenditure		3,967		(3,967)
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance the payments to the Government capital receipts pool	(39)	39		
Transfer of capital receipts to the Capital Adjustment Account to finance future expenditure		(2,928)		2,928

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

2010/11 (cont'd)

	Usable Reserves			
	General Fund Balance £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Unusable Reserves £000
Adjustments involving the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve:				
Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	81	(81)		
Adjustments involving the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:				
Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in year in accordance with statutory requirements	6			(6)
Adjustments involving the Pension Reserve:				
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	9,141			(9,141)
Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	18,648			(18,648)
Adjustments involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:				
Amount by which council tax income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	730			(730)
Adjustments involving the Unequal Pay Back Pay Adjustment Account:				
Amount by which amounts charged for equal pay claims to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from the cost of settlements chargeable in year in accordance with statutory requirements	(6,398)			6,398
Adjustments involving the Accumulating Compensated Absences Adjustment Account:				
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from the remuneration chargeable in year in accordance with statutory requirements	(480)			480
Total Adjustments	33,444	-	3,652	(37,096)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

2009/10 Comparative Figures

	Usable Reserves			
	General Fund Balance £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Unusable Reserves £000
Adjustments involving the Capital Adjustment Account:				
<u>Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</u>				
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(100,887)			100,887
Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment				
Movement in the market value of Investment Properties	(1,245)			1,245
Amortisation of intangible assets	(1,410)			1,410
Capital grants and contributions	10,954			(10,954)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(427)			427
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(327)			327
<u>Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</u>				
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	7,416			(7,416)
Principal repayment on external loans	525			(525)
Capital expenditure charged against General Fund	2,530			(2,530)
Adjustments involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:				
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	1,304		(1,304)	
Application of grants to capital financing			1,236	(1,236)
Adjustments involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:				
Transfer of sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	1,071	(1,071)		
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new expenditure		1,096		(1,096)
Contribution from the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance the payments to the Government capital receipts pool	(36)	36		
Transfer of capital receipts to the Capital Adjustment Account to finance future expenditure		43		(43)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

2009/10 Comparative Figures (cont'd)

	Usable Reserves			
	General Fund Balance £000	Capital Receipts Reserve £000	Capital Grants Unapplied £000	Unusable Reserves £000
Adjustments involving the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve:				
Transfer of deferred sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	104	(104)		
Adjustments involving the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account:				
Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in year in accordance with statutory requirements	(22)			22
Adjustments involving the Pension Reserve:				
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(27,846)			27,846
Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	18,797			(18,797)
Adjustments involving the Collection Fund Adjustment Account:				
Amount by which council tax income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(10)			10
Adjustments involving the Unequal Pay Back Pay Adjustment Account:				
Amount by which amounts charged for equal pay claims to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from the cost of settlements chargeable in year in accordance with statutory requirements	(4,778)			4,778
Adjustments involving the Accumulating Compensated Absences Adjustment Account:				
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from the remuneration chargeable in year in accordance with statutory requirements	454			(454)
Total Adjustments	(93,833)	-	(68)	93,901

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

8. AMOUNTS REPORTED FOR RESOURCE ALLOCATION DECISIONS

The analysis of income and expenditure by service on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is that specified by the Best Value Accounting Code of Practice. However, decisions about resource allocation are taken by the Council's Cabinet on the basis of budget reports analysed across Portfolios. These reports are prepared on a different basis from the accounting policies used in the financial statements.

Portfolio Income and Expenditure 2010/11

	Health and Social Care £000	Children and Family Services £000	Regeneration, Economy and Skills £000	Neighbourhood Delivery £000	Finance and Information Technology £000	Total £000
Employee expenses	20,375	124,464	8,813	17,283	13,285	184,220
Other service expenses	78,112	106,197	46,904	25,197	102,356	358,766
Total Expenditure	98,487	230,661	55,717	42,480	115,641	542,986
Government grants	(904)	(159,859)	(3,736)	(300)	(95,101)	(259,900)
Fees and charges and other service income	(40,438)	(24,217)	(22,669)	(26,879)	(13,738)	(127,941)
Total Income	(41,342)	(184,076)	(26,405)	(27,179)	(108,839)	(387,841)
Net Expenditure	57,145	46,585	29,312	15,301	6,802	155,145

Portfolio Income and Expenditure 2009/10 Comparatives

	Health and Social Care £000	Children and Family Services £000	Regeneration, Economy and Skills £000	Neighbourhood Delivery £000	Finance and Information Technology £000	Total £000
Employee expenses	20,450	122,027	9,277	16,794	12,558	181,106
Other service expenses	72,780	115,966	43,638	29,391	97,917	359,692
Total Expenditure	93,230	237,993	52,915	46,185	110,475	540,798
Government grants	(8,423)	(152,220)	(3,289)	(84)	(89,346)	(253,362)
Fees and charges and other service income	(32,956)	(39,814)	(20,415)	(30,995)	(13,519)	(137,699)
Total Income	(41,379)	(192,034)	(23,704)	(31,079)	(102,865)	(391,061)
Net Expenditure	51,851	45,959	29,211	15,106	7,610	149,737

Under the Code guidance, Portfolios with 10% or more of gross income or expenditure must be identified separately.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Reconciliation of Portfolio Income and Expenditure to Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

This reconciliation shows how the figures in the analysis of Portfolio income and expenditure relate to the amounts included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2009/10 £000		2010/11 £000
149,737	Net expenditure in the Portfolio analysis	155,145
33,033	Net expenditure of services not included in analysis	32,216
82,460	Amounts in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement not reported to management in the analysis	(22,504)
(6,290)	Amounts included in the analysis not included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(8,748)
258,940	Cost of Services in Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	156,109

Portfolios for Leader's, Community Safety and Social Inclusion, Corporate and Customer Services and Leisure, Community and Culture are summarised within Net expenditure of services not included in analysis.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Reconciliation to Subjective Analysis

This reconciliation shows how the figures in the analysis of Portfolio income and expenditure relate to a subjective analysis of the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2010/11 Subjective Analysis

	Portfolio Analysis £000	Services not in Analysis £000	Amounts not reported to management for decision making £000	Amounts not included in CI&ES £000	Cost of Service £000	Corporate Amounts £000	Total £000
Employee expenses	184,220	27,712	6,878		218,810		218,810
Other service expenses	343,535	51,097	14,567		409,199		409,199
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	15,231	1,576	12,844		29,651		29,651
Interest payments						13,214	13,214
Precepts and Levies						22,806	22,806
Payments to Housing Capital Receipts Pool						39	39
Pension interest cost and return						12,720	12,720
Expenditure and revaluation on investment properties						2,535	2,535
Gain or Loss on disposal of non-current assets						307	307
Total Expenditure	542,986	80,385	34,289	0	657,660	51,621	709,281
Fees, charges and other service income	(127,941)	(16,324)	(56,793)	(8,748)	(209,806)		(209,806)
Interest and investment income					0	(1,299)	(1,299)
Income from council tax					0	(54,036)	(54,036)
Government grants and contributions	(259,900)	(31,845)			(291,745)	(185,463)	(477,208)
Total Income	(387,841)	(48,169)	(56,793)	(8,748)	(501,551)	(240,798)	(742,349)
Surplus or deficit on the provision of services	155,145	32,216	(22,504)	(8,748)	156,109	(189,177)	(33,068)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

2009/10 Comparative Subjective Analysis

	Portfolio Analysis £000	Services not in Analysis £000	Amounts not reported to management for decision making £000	Amounts not included in CI&ES £000	Cost of Service £000	Corporate Amounts £000	Total £000
Employee expenses	181,106	26,461	4,778		212,345		212,345
Other service expenses	345,633	35,634	6,435		387,702		387,702
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment	14,059	1,654	88,194		103,907		103,907
Interest payments						10,133	10,133
Precepts and Levies						21,907	21,907
Payments to Housing Capital Receipts Pool						36	36
Pension interest cost and return						16,481	16,481
Expenditure and Revaluation on Investment Properties						1,694	1,694
Gain or Loss on disposal of non-current assets						(848)	(848)
Total Expenditure	540,798	63,749	99,407	0	703,954	49,403	753,357
Fees, charges and other service income	(137,699)	(20,630)	(16,947)	(6,290)	(181,566)		(181,566)
Interest and investment income					0	(2,142)	(2,142)
Income from Investment Properties						(1,921)	(1,921)
Income from council tax					0	(50,982)	(50,982)
Government grants and contributions	(253,362)	(10,086)			(263,448)	(155,549)	(418,997)
Total Income	(391,061)	(30,716)	(16,947)	(6,290)	(445,014)	(210,594)	(655,608)
Surplus or deficit on the provision of services	149,737	33,033	82,460	(6,290)	258,940	(161,191)	97,749

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

9. OTHER OPERATING EXPENDITURE

2009/10 £000		2010/11 £000
1,112	Parish council precepts	1,142
20,795	Levies	21,664
36	Payments to the Government Housing Capital Receipts Pool	39
(848)	Gains/Losses on disposal of non current assets	307
21,095	Total	23,152

10. FINANCING AND INVESTMENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

2009/10 £000		2010/11 £000
10,133	Interest payable and similar charges	13,214
16,481	Pensions interest cost and expected return on pensions assets	12,720
(2,142)	Interest receivable and similar income	(1,299)
(227)	Income and expenditure in relation to investment properties and changes in their fair value	2,535
24,245	Total	27,170

11. TAXATION AND NON SPECIFIC GRANT INCOME

2009/10 £000		2010/11 £000
(50,982)	Council tax income	(54,036)
(94,853)	Non domestic rates	(103,453)
(48,438)	Non-ringfenced Government grants	(44,772)
(12,258)	Capital grants and contributions	(37,238)
(206,531)	Total	(239,499)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

12. SIGNIFICANT TRADING OPERATIONS

The Council operates several trading operations, whereby services are provided to users on the basis of an agreed charge, for example, either a quoted price or a schedule of rates. Trading accounts, which have a target to at least break even, are maintained for such activities, which record the income and expenditure for the services provided by the Trading Operation. Details of the significant Trading Operations of the Council are set out in the table below.

	2009/10			2010/11		
	Turnover	Total Spend	(Surplus) /Deficit	Turnover	Total Spend	(Surplus) /Deficit
Organisation	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Highways <i>The provision of a winter maintenance service and the maintenance of the Council's Street Lighting and Traffic Signs.</i>	(1,033)	1,288	255	(928)	1,268	340
Transport <i>The provision, management and maintenance of Council owned vehicles and small plant.</i>	(2,751)	3,046	295	(2,851)	2,982	131
School Meals <i>The provision of a catering service to all primary and special schools and Centres for Learning in the Borough.</i>	(5,758)	5,488	(270)	(6,144)	5,560	(584)
Building Cleaning <i>The provision of Building Cleaning Services to schools and other Council owned buildings.</i>	(4,406)	4,008	(398)	(4,671)	4,053	(618)
	(13,948)	13,830	(118)	(14,594)	13,863	(731)

13. AGENCY WORK

As in 2009/10, the Council had no agency agreements in place during 2010/11.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

14. PENSION COSTS

The Council participates in two pension schemes:

Teachers: In 2010/11, the Council paid an employer's contribution of £6.884m (£6.910m in 2009/10), representing 14.3% (14.1% in 2009/10) of employees' pensionable pay, to the Department for Education (DfE), in respect of teachers' pensionable pay. In addition, the Council is responsible for all pension payments relating to added years benefits it has awarded, together with the related increases. In 2010/11, these amounted to £1.424m (£1.456m in 2009/10), representing 2.9% (3.0% in 2009/10) of pensionable pay.

Other Employees and Members: In 2010/11, the Council paid an employer's contribution (excluding unfunded benefit contributions) of £15.469m (£15.574m in 2009/10), representing 18.2% (18.0% in 2009/10) of employees' pensionable pay, to the Merseyside Pension Fund. In addition, the Council is responsible for all pension payments relating to added years benefits it has awarded, together with the related increases. In 2010/11, these amounted to £3.167m (£3.152m in 2009/10), representing 3.73% (3.65% in 2009/10) of pensionable pay (including in-year retirements costs which amounted to £3.231m (£1.933m in 2009/10)).

The transactions that are included in the 2010/11 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in respect of the Council's pensions scheme are set out in the following table, based upon information provided to the Council by the Pension Fund's independent actuary. The cost of retirement benefits is shown in the Net Cost of Services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge to be met in the year is based on the amounts set by the Pension Fund, so the real cost of accrued retirement benefits is reversed out of the accounts as indicated in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

14. PENSION COSTS (Cont'd)

	Merseyside Pension Fund		Teachers Added Years		Total	
	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000
Cost of Services:						
Current Service Cost	8,866	14,631	0	0	8,866	14,631
Past Service or Curtailment or Settlement Costs	2,499	(35,402)	0	0	2,499	(35,402)
	<u>11,365</u>	<u>(20,771)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>11,365</u>	<u>(20,771)</u>
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure:						
Interest Cost	33,841	37,298	1,139	1,034	34,980	38,332
Expected Return on Assets	(18,499)	(25,612)	0	0	(18,499)	(25,612)
	<u>15,342</u>	<u>11,686</u>	<u>1,139</u>	<u>1,034</u>	<u>16,481</u>	<u>12,720</u>
Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	<u>26,707</u>	<u>(9,085)</u>	<u>1,139</u>	<u>1,034</u>	<u>27,846</u>	<u>(8,051)</u>
Other Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:						
Actuarial (gains) and losses	80,008	(37,486)	3,051	674	83,059	(36,812)
Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	<u>106,715</u>	<u>(46,571)</u>	<u>4,190</u>	<u>1,708</u>	<u>110,905</u>	<u>(44,863)</u>
Movement in Reserves Statement						
reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit for the Provision of Services for post employment benefits in accordance with the Code	(26,707)	9,085	(1,139)	(1,034)	(27,846)	8,051
Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year:						
Employers' contributions payable to scheme	<u>17,215</u>	<u>17,349</u>	<u>1,433</u>	<u>1,448</u>	<u>18,648</u>	<u>18,797</u>

Source: Mercer Limited

In addition to the recognised gains and losses included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, an actuarial gain of £36.812m (£83.059m loss in 2009/10) is included in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

Note 45 to the Accounts details the assumptions used to estimate these figures.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

15.1 EMPLOYEE REMUNERATION: Senior Officers

In accordance with national regulations and guidance, the senior officers included within this disclosure note are the Chief Executive, the Council's Executive Directors, and also those officers who are not Executive Directors but whose appointment is required by statutory provision.

Post Title and Name	Notes	2010/11 Salary £	2010/11 Benefits in Kind (Note 1) £	2010/11 Pension Contributions made by the Council £	2010/11 Total £
a) Senior Officers whose annual salary is £150,000 or more					
Chief Executive - S M Ramsey	2	181,893	10,135	32,741	224,769
b) Senior Officers whose annual salary is between £50,000 and £150,000					
Executive Director Wellbeing Services (also Chief Executive NHS Knowsley)	3	105,969	6,524	17,621	130,114
Executive Director of Regeneration, Economy & Skills	4	59,448	5,345	10,668	75,461
Executive Director of Corporate Resources	5	120,523	8,143	21,655	150,321
Executive Director of Children and Family Services	6	114,705	9,844	20,647	145,196
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services		107,178	9,609	19,292	136,079
c) Officers Appointed Under Statutory Requirements					
Director of Health and Social Care	7	98,773	6,364	17,779	122,916
Borough Treasurer	8	92,832	6,251	16,671	115,754

NOTES

1. Benefits in Kind are the estimated financial value of non-cash, taxable benefits received by an employee that are chargeable to UK income tax – for example charges for Leased Cars. The figures set out in the table above do not represent the actual costs to the Council which are generally lower.
2. The Chief Executive of the Council also fulfils the statutory role of Head of the Paid Service as set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
3. The Executive Director of Wellbeing Services also fulfils the position of Chief Executive of NHS Knowsley and thereby occupies a single post jointly appointed and funded by both organisations. The Council received funding of £62,903 in 2010/11 from NHS Knowsley towards the total remuneration costs for this post. For the period December 2010 to March 2011 the post holder was seconded to another organisation; remuneration from that organisation for this role is therefore excluded from the figures above.
4. For the period September 2010 to March 2011 the post holder of Executive Director of Regeneration, Economy & Skills was seconded to another organisation; remuneration from that organisation for this role is therefore excluded from the figures above.
5. The Executive Director of Corporate Resources also fulfils the statutory responsibility of Monitoring Officer for the Authority as set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
6. The Executive Director of Children and Family Services also fulfils the statutory responsibility of Director of Children's Services as set out in the Children's Act 2004.
7. The post of Director of Health and Social Care fulfils the statutory role of Director of Adult Social Services under as set out in the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 as amended by the Children Act 2004. The post is jointly appointed and funded by the Council and NHS Knowsley. The Council received funding of £61,491 in 2010/11 from NHS Knowsley towards the total remuneration costs for this post.
8. The post of Borough Treasurer fulfils the statutory role of Chief Finance Officer as set out in the Local Government Act 1972.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Senior Officers Remuneration: 2009/10 Comparator Figures

In accordance with national regulations and guidance, the senior officers included within this disclosure note are the Chief Executive, the Council's Executive Directors, and also those officers who are not Executive Directors but whose appointment is required by statutory provision.

Post Title and Name	Notes	2009/10 Salary £	2009/10 Benefits in Kind (Note 1) £	2009/10 Pension Contributions made by the Council £	2009/10 Total £
a) Senior Officers whose annual salary is £150,000 or more					
Chief Executive - S M Ramsey	2	181,896	10,135	32,741	224,772
b) Senior Officers whose annual salary is between £50,000 and £150,000					
Executive Director Wellbeing Services (also Chief Executive NHS Knowsley)	3	146,845	10,511	26,432	183,788
Executive Director of Regeneration, Economy & Skills		122,215	11,211	20,206	153,632
Executive Director of Corporate Resources	4	124,171	7,789	20,647	152,607
Executive Director of Children and Family Services	5	114,705	9,401	20,647	144,753
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services	6	65,282	4,961	11,751	81,994
c) Officers Appointed Under Statutory Requirements					
Director of Health and Social Care	7	98,773	6,110	17,779	122,662
Borough Treasurer	8	90,702	6,251	16,287	113,240

NOTES

1. Benefits in Kind are the estimated financial value of non-cash, taxable benefits received by an employee that are chargeable to UK income tax – for example charges for Leased Cars. The figures set out in the table above do not represent the actual costs to the Council which are generally lower.
2. The Chief Executive of the Council also fulfils the statutory role of Head of the Paid Service as set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
3. The Executive Director of Wellbeing Services also fulfils the position of Chief Executive of NHS Knowsley and thereby occupies a single post jointly appointed and funded by both organisations. The Council received funding of £92,347 in 2009/10 from NHS Knowsley towards the total remuneration costs for this post.
4. The Executive Director of Corporate Resources also fulfils the statutory responsibility of Monitoring Officer for the Authority as set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
5. The Executive Director of Children and Family Services also fulfils the statutory responsibility of Director of Children's Services as set out in the Children's Act 2004.
6. The post of Executive Director Neighbourhood Services was vacant until 17 August 2009 when the current post holder was appointed on a salary of £104,676.
7. The post of Director of Health and Social Care fulfils the statutory role of Director of Adult Social Services under as set out in the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 as amended by the Children Act 2004. The post is jointly appointed and funded by the Council and NHS Knowsley. The Council received funding of £62,621 in 2009/10 from NHS Knowsley towards the total remuneration costs for this post.
8. The post of Borough Treasurer fulfils the statutory role of Chief Finance Officer as set out in the Local Government Act 1972.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

15.2 EMPLOYEE REMUNERATION: Other officers over £50,000.

The table below shows the number of other employees (including teachers but excluding Merseyside Police Authority officers) whose remuneration for 2010/11 was £50,000 or more. As defined by the Code, remuneration relates to all amounts paid to or receivable by a person, and includes sums due by way of expense allowance (so far as those sums are chargeable to UK income tax). It also includes the estimated monetary value of any other taxable benefits received by an employee otherwise than in cash, and payments made in respect of retirement and/or redundancy, but excludes employers' pension contributions.

Total Remuneration	Number of Employees	
	2009/10	2010/11
£50,000 - £54,999	71	85
£55,000 - £59,999	62	54
£60,000 - £64,999	40	54
£65,000 - £69,999	16	20
£70,000 - £74,999	9	15
£75,000 - £79,999	7	7
£80,000 - £84,999	5	3
£85,000 - £89,999	12	6
£90,000 - £94,999	7	8
£95,000 - £99,999	0	2
£100,000 - £104,999	0	3
£105,000 - £109,999	1	1
£110,000 - £114,999	0	0
£115,000 - £119,999	2	0
£120,000 - £124,999	0	1
£125,000 - £129,999	0	0
£130,000 - £134,999	0	0
£135,000 - £139,999	0	0
£140,000 - £144,999	0	1
£145,000 - £149,999	0	0
£150,000 - £154,999	0	0
£155,000 - £159,999	0	0
£160,000 - £164,999	0	0
£165,000 - £169,999	0	0
£170,000 - £174,999	0	1
TOTAL	232	261

16. TERMINATION BENEFITS

The Council terminated the contracts of a number of employees (413) in 2010/11, incurring liabilities of £6.954m.

17. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

During 2010/11, the Council paid a total of £0.857m in respect of Members' Allowances (£0.858m in 2009/10). Further details can be obtained from the Head of Democratic Services, Directorate of Corporate Resources, Municipal Buildings, Huyton.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

18. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Council is required to disclose material transactions with related parties. Related parties are individuals or organisations that have the potential to control or influence the Council or be controlled or influenced by the Council. The following identifies the Council's related party transactions during 2010/11:

Central Government

The Government has effective control over the general operations of the Council. It is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates and provides funding in the form of grants. Details of the material transactions with Government Departments are included in the Cash Flow Statement and in Notes 34 (Short-term Debtors) and 37 (Short-term Creditors) to the Accounts.

Subsidiary and Associated Companies

Details of the Council's interests in companies are set out in Note 47 to the Accounts.

Other Public Bodies

- **Primary Care Trust**

The Council established a partnership agreement with Knowsley Primary Care Trust during 2004/05 using powers under Section 31 of the Health Act 1999 (see Note 21 to the Accounts) and these remain in place under section 75 of the NHS Act 2006. The Partnership Board includes three Council Members and is advised by four Officers of the Council. Under this partnership agreement, a number of the Council's officers are funded jointly by the Council and the Primary Care Trust, including the Council's Chief Executive who is also the Chief Executive of the Primary Care Trust.

- **Pension Fund**

Full details of the Council's Pension Fund transactions are disclosed in Note 14 to the Accounts and the Accounting Policies. One Member of the Council is a member of the Merseyside Pension Fund Committee.

- **Knowsley Housing Trust**

Transactions to Knowsley Housing Trust consisted of £8.237m in payments and £2.155m in receipts. 11 Members of the Council have declared an interest.

- **Councils for Voluntary Services - Knowsley**

Payments totalled £0.111m. One Member has expressed an interest.

- **New Deal For Communities**

Payments to New Deal for Communities totalled £0.008m. Four Members have expressed an interest.

Transactions relating to Other Public Bodies also included

- Merseytravel £1.039m – Three Members have expressed an interest.
- Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service £0.050m - Four Members have expressed an interest.
- Merseyside Police Authority £1.045m – Three Members have expressed an interest.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Members' Interests

Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operational policies. During 2010/11, works and services totalling £0.814m were commissioned from organisations in which 14 Members had an interest. Contracts were entered into in full compliance with the Council's Constitution. Payments and grants totalling £58.321m were paid to housing associations, hospital trusts, and voluntary organisations, in which there were 143 expressions of interest from Members. In all cases, the relevant Members have declared their interest and taken no part in any prejudicial discussion or decision relating to the transactions.

Officers' Interests

During 2010/11, one Service Director expressed an interest in Heart of Mersey and the Chief Executive expressed interests in The National Wildflower Centre and Knowsley Primary Care Trust to which total payments of £0.018m, £0.052m and £12.182m respectively were made during the year. No other specific interest declarations were made surrounding activities falling outside normal duties.

19. IMPAIRMENT OF ASSETS

The Council's approach to impairment of assets is set out in the Council's accounting policies. The amounts that have been recognised as charges to cost of service are £12.581m. These charges include £8.822m in relation to some of the Council's Leisure Centres which has been charged to cost of service under Cultural, Environmental, Regulatory and Planning Services.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

20. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

In 2010/11, Knowsley MBC incurred the following fees relating to external audit and inspection:

2009/10 Total		2010/11 Pricewaterhouse Coopers	Audit Commission	Total
£000		£000	£000	£000
262	Fees payable with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor	272	2	274
17	Fees payable in respect of Statutory Inspection under (Section 10 Local Government Act 1999)	0	0	0
67	Fees payable for the certification of grant claims and returns (Section 28 Audit Commission Act 1998)	49	0	49
10	Fees payable for other services	5	0	5
356	Total	326	2	328

Under the Audit Commission's Rotation Policy, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP became the Council's appointed Auditors from 1 April 2005.

21. POOLED BUDGETS

Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 (formerly Section 31 of the Health Act 1999) allows the establishment of joint working arrangements between NHS bodies and local authorities. This enables the bodies to "pool" funds to work together to address specific local health issues. Where pooled budgets are established, the main financial statements in these accounts reflect only the Council's share of the overall budget, and exclude the share(s) attributable to partner organisations. The details of the entire pooled budget including all partners' shares are disclosed in the notes below.

During 2010/11, the Council was involved with five pooled budgets each of which has a "host" organisation. Three of the pools are hosted by the Council's Health and Social Care Portfolio and two are hosted by Knowsley Primary Care Trust. Details of all the pooled budgets are shown below.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

21.1 Pooled Budgets Hosted by the Council

Included within the Council's accounts are the following three partnership schemes with Knowsley Primary Care Trust:

Pooled Budget	Purpose
Community Support Services	Provision of supported accommodation and community-based support
Mental Health	Provision of support in the community for people with a mental illness
Adults with learning disabilities	Provision of supported accommodation for adults with learning disabilities

Details of the three hosted pooled budget accounts are shown in the table below.

Income and Expenditure	Community Support Services		Mental Health		Learning Disabilities		Total	
	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000
Gross Funding								
Reserve B/fwd	(298)	(199)	(134)	(61)	(304)	0	(736)	(260)
Knowsley Primary Care Trust	(2,481)	(5,549)	(2,191)	(2,111)	(9,549)	(8,047)	(14,221)	(15,707)
Knowsley MBC	(645)	(688)	(984)	(495)	(8,784)	(9,361)	(10,413)	(10,544)
Total Funding	(3,424)	(6,436)	(3,309)	(2,667)	(18,637)	(17,408)	(25,370)	(26,511)
Pooled Expenditure	3,225	5,798	3,248	2,658	18,637	17,408	25,110	25,864
Net (surplus) / deficit	(199)	(638)	(61)	(9)	0	0	(260)	(647)

21.2 Pooled budgets hosted by other organisations

The Council has previously been involved in the Integrated Community Equipment Service pooled budget where Knowsley Primary Care Trust acted as the host. This arrangement ended during 2010/11. The Council has however, entered into a further pooled budget where the Primary Care Trust acts as the host. This budget is the Knowsley Integrated Provider Service and is for one year.

	Integrated Community Equipment		Knowsley Integrated Provider		Total	
	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000
Funding						
Balance of funds brought forward	(49)	(55)	0	0	(49)	(55)
Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council	(330)	(141)	0	(5,392)	(330)	(5,533)
Knowsley Primary Care Trust	(517)	(221)	0	(39,290)	(517)	(39,511)
St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council	(487)	(208)	0	0	(487)	(208)
St Helens Primary Care Trust	(549)	(235)	0	0	(549)	(235)
Total Funding	(1,932)	(860)	0	(44,682)	(1,932)	(45,542)
Total Expenditure	1,877	860	0	44,332	1,877	45,192
Net underspend carried forward	(55)	0	0	(350)	(55)	(350)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

22. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT

The Council's expenditure on schools is funded primarily by grant monies provided by the Department for Education, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The Dedicated Schools Grant is ring-fenced and can only be applied to meet expenditure properly included in the Schools Budget, as defined in the School Finance (England) Regulations 2008. The Schools Budget includes elements for a range of educational services provided on an authority-wide basis and for the Individual Schools Budget, which is divided into a budget share for each maintained school. Details of the deployment of the Dedicated Schools Grant receivable for 2010/11 are shown in the following table.

Schools Budget Funded by Dedicated Schools Grant	Central Expenditure £'000	Individual Schools Budget £'000	Total £'000
Final DSG for 2010/11	(16,628)	(84,045)	(100,673)
Brought Forward from 2009/10	301	10	311
Carry Forward to 2011/12 agreed in advance	0	0	0
Agreed budgeted distribution in 2010/11	(16,327)	(84,035)	(100,362)
Actual central expenditure	16,211	-	16,211
Actual ISB deployed to schools	-	84,422	84,422
Carry forward to 2011/12	(116)	387	271

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

23. GRANT INCOME

The Council credited the following grants and contributions to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during 2010/11:

	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000
Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income		
National Non Domestic Rates	94,853	103,453
Area Based Grant	26,545	29,750
Revenue Support Grant	21,893	15,022
Standards Fund	3,667	29,322
Regional Housing Pot Capital Grant	1,757	3,229
Highways Supported Capital Grant	2,912	2,257
Early Years and Sure Start	815	1,808
Other	3,107	622
Total	155,549	185,463
Credited to Services		
Dedicated Schools Grant	98,699	100,595
Council Tax / Housing Benefit Rebates Grant	87,057	92,705
Future Jobs Fund	7,294	30,154
Standards Fund	18,137	20,025
Private Finance Initiative Subsidy	20,687	19,011
Early Years Sure Start	7,317	8,510
Post 16 Education	2,225	6,821
Regional Housing Programme Capital Grant	1,467	2,612
Benefit Verification Framework / Fraud Incentive / Tax Credits	2,412	2,272
European Regional Development Fund	608	999
Lottery	644	705
Disabled Facilities Grant	643	700
New Deal for Communities	762	664
Youth Justice Board	667	641
Adult Education	913	583
Supporting People	7,734	134
Social Care Reform Grant	602	542
North West Development Agency	1,335	421
European Social Fund	2,625	221
Child Poverty Family Intervention Programme	560	214
Momenta Government Grant	443	162
Information Sharing and Assessment	350	79
Play pathfinder and Playbuilder Grant	338	56
Other	5,003	7,567
Total	268,522	296,393

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

23. GRANT INCOME (cont'd)

The Council has received a number of grants and contributions that have yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached to them that will require the monies or property to be returned to the giver. The balances at year-end are as follows:

	31 March 2010 £000	31 March 2011 £000
Capital Grants Receipts in Advance		
Standards Fund	19,330	5,147
Surestart – Children’s Centre	1,490	116
Big Lottery	188	0
Other	180	269
Total	21,188	5,532

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

24. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

a) Movements in 2010/11

	Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment £000	Infrastructure £000	Sub total £000
Cost or Valuation				
Balance at 1 April 2010	474,065	45,634	160,192	679,891
Opening Revaluations	0	0	0	0
	474,065	45,634	160,192	679,891
Additions	10,390	5,098	5,839	21,327
Revaluations in Revaluation Reserve	10,559	0	0	10,559
Revaluation in Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services	(5,992)	0	0	(5,992)
Disposals	(529)	0	0	(529)
Assets reclassified to/from Held for Sale	0	0	0	0
Other movements	0	0	0	0
Balance at 31 March 2011	488,493	50,732	166,031	705,256
Depreciation and Impairment				
Balance at 1 April 2010	161,540	31,929	18,721	212,190
Depreciation charge	8,776	4,440	3,357	16,573
Depreciation written out to Revaluation Reserve	(2,022)	0	0	(2,022)
Depreciation written out to Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services	(1,147)	0	0	(1,147)
Impairment losses in Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0	0
Impairment losses in Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services	7,587	0	0	7,587
Disposals	(46)	0	0	(46)
Balance at 31 March 2011	174,688	36,369	22,078	233,135
Net Book Value				
At 31 March 2011	313,805	14,363	143,953	472,121
At 31 March 2010	312,525	13,705	141,471	467,701

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

24. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (cont'd)

	Community Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £000	PFI Assets included in PPE £000
Cost or Valuation				
Balance at 1 April 2010	1,365	1,419	682,675	96,341
Opening Revaluations	0	0	0	0
	1,365	1,419	682,675	96,341
Additions	0	40,046	61,373	7
Revaluations in Revaluation Reserve	0	0	10,559	0
Revaluation in Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services	0	0	(5,992)	0
Disposals	0	0	(529)	0
Assets reclassified to/from Held for Sale	0	0	0	0
Other movements	0	0	0	0
Balance at 31 March 2011	1,365	41,465	748,086	96,348
Depreciation and Impairment				
Balance at 1 April 2010	219	0	212,409	4,890
Depreciation charge	28	0	16,601	3,854
Depreciation written out to Revaluation Reserve	0	0	(2,022)	0
Depreciation written out to Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services	0	0	(1,147)	0
Impairment losses in Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0	0
Impairment losses in Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services	0	0	7,587	0
Disposals	0	0	(46)	0
Balance at 31 March 2011	247	0	233,382	8,744
Net Book Value				
At 31 March 2011	1,118	41,465	514,704	87,604
At 31 March 2010	1,146	1,419	470,266	91,451

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

24. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (cont'd)

Comparative Movements in 2009/10

	Land and Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment £000	Infrastructure £000	Sub total £000
Cost or Valuation				
Balance at 1 April 2009	388,398	42,640	155,511	586,549
Opening Revaluations	652	0	0	652
	389,050	42,640	155,511	587,201
Additions	79,234	2,994	4,681	86,909
Revaluations in Revaluation Reserve	4,498	0	0	4,498
Revaluation in Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services	0	0	0	0
Disposals	0	0	0	0
Assets reclassified to/from Held for Sale	(275)	0	0	(275)
Other movements	1,558	0	0	1,558
Balance at 31 March 2010	474,065	45,634	160,192	679,891
Depreciation and Impairment				
Balance at 1 April 2009	66,342	27,891	15,457	109,690
Depreciation charge	8,953	4,038	3,264	16,255
Depreciation written out to Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0	0
Depreciation written out to Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services	0	0	0	0
Impairment losses in Revaluation Reserve	1,640	0	0	1,640
Impairment losses in Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services	84,605	0	0	84,605
Disposals	0	0	0	0
Balance at 31 March 2010	161,540	31,929	18,721	212,190
Net Book Value				
At 31 March 2010	312,525	13,705	141,471	467,701
At 31 March 2009	322,056	14,749	140,054	476,859

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

24. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (cont'd)

	Community Assets £000	Assets Under Construction £000	Total Property, Plant and Equipment £000	PFI Assets included in PPE £000
Cost or Valuation				
Balance at 1 April 2009	1,365	1,364	589,278	25,907
Opening Revaluations	0	0	652	0
	1,365	1,364	589,930	
Additions	0	1,417	88,326	70,434
Revaluations in Revaluation Reserve	0	0	4,498	0
Revaluation in Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services	0	0	0	0
Disposals	0	0	0	0
Assets reclassified to/from Held for Sale	0	0	(275)	0
Other movements	0	(1,362)	196	0
Balance at 31 March 2010	1,365	1,419	682,675	96,341
Depreciation and Impairment				
Balance at 1 April 2009	191	0	109,881	1,036
Depreciation charge	28	0	16,283	3,854
Depreciation written out to Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0	0
Depreciation written out to Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services	0	0	0	0
Impairment losses in Revaluation Reserve	0	0	1,640	0
Impairment losses in Surplus/Deficit on Provision of Services	0	0	84,605	0
Disposals	0	0	0	0
Balance at 31 March 2010	219	0	212,409	4,890
Net Book Value				
At 31 March 2010	1,146	1,419	470,266	91,451
At 31 March 2009	1,174	1,364	479,397	24,871

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

b) Depreciation and Measurement

The basis for measurement and depreciation for each class of asset is shown in the table below. Depreciation is calculated on the straight line method based on the following useful life of assets:

Asset	Measurement Basis	Depreciation
Other Land and Buildings	Fair value based on Existing Use Value	50 years
Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	Depreciated Replacement Cost	5 – 20 years
Infrastructure	Depreciated Historical Cost	50 years
Community Assets	Depreciated Historical Cost	50 years
Assets under Construction	Fair Value	Not depreciated
Assets Held for Sale	Fair value based on Existing Use Value	Not depreciated

c) Revaluations

The Council carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all Property, Plant and Equipment required to be measured at fair value is revalued at least every five years. All valuations are carried out internally. Valuations of land and building are carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.

d) Capital Financing

Capital expenditure incurred during the year was financed as follows:

2009/10 £000		2010/11 £000
	Capital Expenditure	
18,118	Property, Plant and Equipment	61,373
3,711	Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute	8,060
583	Intangible Assets	774
70,434	Private Finance Initiative acquired Assets	0
431	Investment Properties	0
93,277		70,207
	Sources of Finance	
70,434	Credit Arrangements	0
15,436	Grant	44,273
3,562	Borrowing	14,097
1,096	Capital Receipts	3,967
30	Finance Lease	2,889
2,530	Capital Expenditure from Revenue Account	2,763
189	Other Contributions	2,218
93,277		70,207

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

e) Capital Expenditure

The main items of capital expenditure during 2010/11 were:

	£000
<u>Children and Family Services Portfolio</u>	
Future Schooling in Knowsley – Targeted Capital Primary Fund	20,655
Schools' Devolved Formula Capital Programme	1,337
Early Years	886
Schools' Modernisation Programme	750
Knowsley Skills Academy	757
ICT Harnessing Technology	716
<u>Leisure, Community and Culture Portfolio</u>	
New Huyton Leisure Centre	6,903
Our Place	2,150
Play Pathfinder	416
<u>Neighbourhood Delivery Portfolio</u>	
Vehicle and Plant Replacement	1,040
<u>Regeneration, Economy and Skills Portfolio</u>	
Stockbridge Village Regeneration	9,785
Highway Maintenance Programme	4,253
Huyton Municipal Building Refurbishment	3,553
Private Tenants Grants	1,501
Registered Social Landlord Capital Support	1,464
North Huyton Revive Programme – Owner Occupier Acquisitions	981
Energy Efficiency Grants	609
<u>Corporate and Council Wide</u>	
Early Retirement and Voluntary Severance	2,396

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

f) Capital Commitments

At 31 March 2011, the Council had entered into a number of contracts for the construction or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment in 2011/12 and future years. The major commitments are:

Scheme	Purpose	Expected Period	£000
Stockbridge Village Regeneration	This programme will have a positive impact upon the children and families of the Stockbridge Village community, providing them with a state of the art learning environment whilst also offering a range of other activities for families through dedicated community provision with the additional facilities of a family health centre, a new neighbourhood centre / leisure facility and library	2011/12 to 2012/13	14,505
Targeted Capital Primary Schools	To build 2 new primary/special needs learning centres at Northwood and Greengates and 2 primary learning centres at North Huyton Joint Catholic and Church of England and Parkbrow with extended schools facilities and links to children centre provision.	2011/12 to 2012/13	11,685
Leisure Facilities	The implementation of Phase III will see the centre of the Borough have one main leisure hub facility with a main public pool, with satellite sites that will consist of a smaller specialist water facility and a number of dry facilities in Stockbridge Village and Prescott. This is in keeping with the model adopted in the North and South of the Borough.	2011/12 to 2012/13	9,560
Our Place	The building and furnishing of the youth facility funded by MyPlace funding via big Lottery Fund.	2011/12	2,687
Building and Property Alterations	Included in this block is the Prescott Co-Location project (£1.183m).	2011/12	2,416
New Pupil Places	To support the extension of schools where space is insufficient for the effective delivery of the curriculum	2011/12	2,233
Decent Homes for All	Financial Assistance to Owner Occupiers to bring their homes to the Decent Homes Standard by Housing Renewal, Energy Efficiency and Disabled Facilities works. In addition, to allow people to minimise their fuel bills or to have their home adapted to cater for a disability and allow them to remain in their home, if that is their wish.	2011/12	2,192

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Capital Commitments (cont'd)

Scheme	Purpose	Expected Period	£000
Devolved Formula Capital	Allowances provided to schools on a formulaic basis to allow local decision making on asset management subject to identification of priority within the asset plan.	2011/12	1,873
Strategic Highway Network	Structural maintenance of the carriageways and bridges and schemes aimed at improving the management and control of traffic (both within and through the borough) with signals and signs.	2011/12	1,647
School and Childrens Centre Maintenance	This Programme assures the condition of schools and childrens centres building stock. Adequate maintenance supports the raising of standards of achievement of pupils by ensuring that teaching and learning takes place in suitable environments.	2011/12	1,335
BMX Velodrome	Development of a 400m velodrome and national BMX facility adjacent to the Leisure centre, to compliment the "Leisure & Culture Park".	2011/12	1,208
Addressing the Need for Supported Housing	To provide extra care housing for older persons to assist older people to live more independant lives than would be possible in residential care or nursing homes, but with the level of care and support required. Also to assist the prevention of homelessness.	2011/12	1,065

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

25. INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

The following items of income and expenditure have been accounted for in the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2009/10 £000		2010/11 £000
1,921	Rental income from investment property	2,048
(449)	Direct operating expenses arising from investment property	(474)
1,472	Net gain	1,574

There are no restrictions on the Council's ability to realise the value inherent in its investment property or on the Council's right to the remittance of income and the proceeds of disposal. The Council has no contractual obligations to purchase, construct or develop investment property or repairs, maintenance or enhancement.

The following table summarises the movement in the fair value of investment properties over the year.

2009/10 £000		2010/11 £000
36,691	Balance at 1 April	35,877
	Additions:	
431	- Subsequent expenditure	0
0	Disposals	(39)
(1,245)	Net gains / losses from fair value adjustments	(4,109)
35,877	Balance at 31 March	31,729

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

26. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

The Council accounts for its software as intangible assets, to the extent that the software is not an integral part of a particular IT system and accounted for as part of the hardware item of Property, Plant and Equipment.

All software is given a finite useful life, based on assessments of the period that the software is expected to be of use to the Council. The useful lives assigned to software used by the Council are 5 years.

2009/10 Software Licences £000		2010/11 Software Licences £000
	Cost or Valuation	
7,049	Balance at start of year	7,632
0	Opening Revaluations	0
<u>7,049</u>		<u>7,632</u>
583	Additions	774
<u>7,632</u>	Balance at end of year	<u>8,406</u>
	Amortisation and Impairment	
4,256	Balance at start of year	5,666
<u>1,410</u>	Amortisation	<u>662</u>
<u>5,666</u>	Balance at end of year	<u>6,328</u>
<u>1,966</u>	Net Carrying amount at end of year	<u>2,078</u>
<u>2,793</u>	Net carrying amount at start of year	<u>1,966</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

27. ASSETS HELD FOR SALE

2009/10		2010/11
£000		£000
1,031	Balance outstanding at start of year	863
863	Assets newly classified as held for sale	0
(1,031)	Assets sold	(863)
863	Balance outstanding at year-end	0

28. PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE TRANSACTIONS

On 13 December 2007, the Council entered into a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) arrangement with Transform Schools for the provision of seven Centres for Learning. The contract includes Hard Facilities Management for a period of 25 years from service commencement, with a contract expiry date of 31 August 2034. Following the guidance given in the Code and the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee interpretation for service concession arrangements (IFRIC 12), these Centres for Learning remain on the Council's Balance Sheet.

a) Assets held under PFI arrangements

Four of the total seven Centres for Learning are Council owned and these Centres are included in the Council's Balance Sheet. The Centres for Learning that are voluntary aided have not been included on the Council's Balance Sheet on the basis that Liverpool Archdiocese has legal ownership of the land and of the residual interest at the end of the agreement. Therefore the fixed asset figures in the Balance Sheet include the following values for the Centres for Learning.

2009/10		2010/11
£000		£000
24,871	Balance at beginning of year	91,451
70,434	Additions	7
(3,854)	Depreciation	(3,854)
91,451	Balance at 31 March	87,604

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

b) Value of Liabilities under PFI arrangements

As well as assets being held on the Balance Sheet the Council also has to include the outstanding liability to Transform Schools. This liability is split between long and short term liabilities on the Balance Sheet and comprises the following figures.

2009/10		2010/11
£000		£000
25,885	Balance at beginning of year	94,710
70,434	Additions	0
(1,609)	Principal repayments during year	(1,858)
94,710	Balance at 31 March	92,852

c) Payments due to be made under PFI arrangements

The outstanding payments due to Transform Schools in relation to the Council owned Centres for Learning are detailed in the table below.

	Repayment of Liability	Interest	Service Charges	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Within 1 year	2,090	7,380	3,290	12,760
Within 2 to 5 years	9,032	27,747	15,287	52,066
Within 6 to 10 years	13,733	30,252	23,608	67,593
Within 11 to 15 years	19,562	23,844	27,319	70,725
Within 16 to 20 years	25,677	14,954	33,638	74,269
Within 21 to 25 years	22,758	3,745	26,632	53,135
	92,852	107,922	129,774	330,548

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

29. LEASES

Finance Leases

The Council has acquired a number of waste bins and its community information network under finance leases. The assets acquired under these leases are carried as Property, Plant and Equipment in the Balance Sheet at the following net amounts:

31 March 2010 £000		31 March 2011 £000
30	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment	2,311
30		2,311

The Council is committed to making minimum payments under these leases comprising settlement of the long-term liability for the interest in the property acquired by the Council and finance costs that will be payable by the Council in future years while the liability remains outstanding. The minimum lease payments are made up of the following amounts:

31 March 2010 £000		31 March 2011 £000
	Finance lease liabilities (net present value of minimum lease payments):	
37	- current	546
0	- non current	1,733
3	Finance costs payable in future years	164
40	Minimum lease payments	2,443

The minimum lease payments will be payable over the following periods:

	Minimum Lease Payments		Finance Lease Liabilities	
	31 March 2010 £000	31 March 2011 £000	31 March 2010 £000	31 March 2011 £000
Not later than one year	40	611	37	546
Later than one year and not later than five years	0	1,832	0	1,733
Later than five years	0	0	0	0
	40	2,443	37	2,279

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Operating Leases

The Council has acquired its fleet of refuse collection and other industrial vehicles by entering into operating leases, with typical lives of five years. The future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable leases in future are:

31 March 2010 £000		31 March 2011 £000
40	Not later than one year	3
13	Later than one year and not later than five years	9
0	Later than five years	0
<u>53</u>		<u>12</u>

The expenditure charged to the Cultural, Environmental, Regulatory and Planning Services line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year in relation to these leases was:

2009/10 £000		2010/11 £000
64	Minimum lease payments	40
<u>64</u>		<u>40</u>

30. LONG TERM INVESTMENTS

The Council held £0.003m of investments in 3.5% Treasury Stock at 31 March 2011.

31. LONG TERM DEBTORS

At 31 March 2011, the Council had long term debtors of £1.125m.

1 April 2009 £000	31 March 2010 £000		31 March 2011 £000
		Long Term Debtor	
645	511	Mortgagors	424
0	367	Soft Loan to Huyton Churches	367
0	193	Coroners transferred debt	186
122	151	Car Loans	148
<u>767</u>	<u>1,222</u>	Total	<u>1,125</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

32. INVENTORIES

	Consumable Stores	
	2009/10	2010/11
	£000	£000
Balance outstanding at start of year	387	319
Purchases	3,247	3,554
Recognised as expense in the year	(3,315)	(3,539)
Written off balances	0	(2)
Balance outstanding at year-end	319	332

33. SHORT TERM INVESTMENTS

The Council's short term investments of £87.121m (£88.477m in 2009/10) include cash on deposit with banks and building societies. Other liquid investments with money market funds are included with cash and cash equivalents.

34. SHORT TERM DEBTORS

The amounts owed to the Council by others are as follows:

1 April 2009	31 March 2010		31 March 2011
£000	£000		£000
5,221	10,480	Government Departments	10,689
1,418	608	Other Local Authorities	1,260
8,347	11,869	Other Entities and Individuals	10,609
0	0	NHS Bodies	19
3,269	3,523	Collection Fund	3,390
18,255	26,480	Total Debtors	25,967

Each line is presented net of bad debt provision. As at 31 March 2011 the total bad provision was £2.390m (£1.888m at 31 March 2010 and £3.032m at 1 April 2009).

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

35. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

The balance of cash and cash equivalents is made up of the following elements:

1 April 2009	31 March		31 March
£000	2010		2011
£000	£000		£000
3,661	6,136	Cash held by the Council	5,511
		Short-term deposits with money market	
24,310	22,561	funds	0
27,971	28,697	Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	5,511

36. SHORT TERM BORROWING

Source of Loan	Range of interest rates payable %	31 March	31 March
		2010	2011
		£000	£000
Public Works Loan Board	Fixed (2.5% to 7.375%)	1,531	4,483
Lender Offer Borrowing Option	Fixed (3.71% to 4.08%)	194	195
Other Local Authorities ^(Note i)	Variable	247	247
		1,972	4,925

Note i) This represents debt transferred on local government reorganisation in 1974 and 1986 but administered by other local authorities on behalf of the Council.

37. SHORT TERM CREDITORS

The amounts owed by the Council to others are as follows:

1 April 2009	31 March		31 March
£000	2010		2011
£000	£000		£000
10,284	8,554	Government Departments	9,021
1,401	1,858	Other Local Authorities	6,285
24,734	27,417	Other Entities and Individuals	27,499
55	72	NHS Bodies	3
2	0	Public Corporations	0
550	591	Collection Fund	651
37,026	38,492	Total Creditors	43,459

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

38. BANK OVERDRAWN

At 31 March 2011, the bank account balance was £1.028m overdrawn. However, cheques raised but unpresented at the bank and other miscellaneous balances totalled £6.317m, which produces a cash overdrawn figure of £7.345m (£5.933m in 2009/10).

39. LONG TERM BORROWING

1 April 2009 £000	31 March 2010 £000	Source of Loan	Range of interest rates payable %	31 March 2011 £000
104,484	104,432	Public Works Loan Board	Fixed (2.5% to 7.375%)	101,428
17,300	17,300	Lender Offer Borrowing Option	Fixed (3.71% to 4.08%)	17,300
3,949	3,703	Other Local Authorities ^(Note i)	Variable	3,456
125,733	125,435			122,184
An analysis of loans by maturity is				
546	9,843	Maturing in 1-2 years		12,860
16,168	11,834	Maturing in 2-5 years		5,804
6,272	1,261	Maturing in 5-10 years		2,383
102,747	102,497	Maturing in more than 10 years		101,137
125,733	125,435			122,184

Note i) This represents debt transferred on local government reorganisation in 1974 and 1986 but administered by other local authorities on behalf of the Council.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

40. EQUAL PAY ACT (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2003

As in previous years the Statement of Accounts reflects the recommended accounting practice for potential compensation claims under the Equal Pay Act (Amendment) Regulations 2003 in relation to equal pay for work of equal value - as defined in Local Authority Accounting Panel Bulletin 68. A provision of £26.427m is included in the Balance Sheet relating to the Council's estimate of the maximum expected costs that may arise from the regulations. The Balance Sheet Total Equity also includes £7.848m within the Equal Pay Back Pay Account and £18.580m within the Capital Adjustment Account (see Note 45) to reflect the reversal of the impact on the Council's General Fund Balances until such time as any future cash settlements are made (see Note 7). The Council is currently conducting a comprehensive job evaluation and harmonisation review which is aimed at resolving this issue. The making of the provision should not be regarded as an acceptance of liability in any particular case. The amount of the provision made does not indicate an expected final settlement figure or prejudice the Council's ongoing negotiations on this matter.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

41. PROVISIONS

In addition to the provision relating to the Equal Pay Act Regulations (detailed in Note 40 above) a number of further provisions have been set aside at 31 March 2011 to cover the following liabilities:

	Balance 31 March 2010 £000	Provided in year £000	Applied in year £000	Balance 31 March 2011 £000
Long Term Provisions				
Insurance	5,115	1,996	(1,906)	5,205
Early Retirement Severance Costs	252	0	(11)	241
Total	5,367	1,996	(1,917)	5,446
Short Term Provisions				
Employee Leave Accrual	2,727	3,207	(2,727)	3,207
Land Charges Fees	113	84	0	197
Other Provisions	528	27	(528)	27
Total	3,368	3,318	(3,255)	3,431
Total Provisions	8,735	5,314	(5,172)	8,877

Detail of Council Provisions

Insurance: estimated settlement cost of claims received at the Balance Sheet date. The Insurance Provision covers claims above the excess/retention levels for risks associated with property and liability. The timing of the liability is dependent on the individual claims process.

Early Retirement and Severance Costs: to meet anticipated costs associated with the early retirement and severance of a number of employees across the Council. These costs are expected to be incurred over the next four years.

Employee Leave Accrual: employee entitlement to paid holidays that have been earned but not taken at 31 March.

Land Charges Fees: for repayment of fees relating to Land Charges which will be required in 2011/12.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

42. SIGNIFICANCE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS FOR FINANCIAL POSITION AND PERFORMANCE

A financial instrument is any contract which gives rise to a financial asset of one entity (such as cash, an equity instrument or a right to receive cash or an equity instrument) and a financial liability of another (such as an obligation to deliver cash or another financial asset).

a) Financial Instrument Balances

The borrowings and investments disclosed in the Balance Sheet are made up of the following categories of financial instruments:

	Long Term			Short Term		
	1 April 2009 £000	31 March 2010 £000	31 March 2011 £000	1 April 2009 £000	31 March 2010 £000	31 March 2011 £000
Financial Liabilities at amortised cost analysed by:						
- Loans outstanding (excluding transferred debt	121,784	121,732	118,728	15,805	1,725	4,678
- Current liabilities (short- term creditors and cash overdrawn)	0	0	0	47,127	44,425	53,635
- Long term liabilities (PFI and finance leases)	24,349	92,853	92,430	0	0	0
Total Borrowing	146,133	214,585	211,158	62,932	46,150	58,313
Loans and receivables analysed by:						
- Investment s outstanding	10,523	3	3	100,219	88,477	87,121
- Short-term debtors	0	0	0	18,255	26,480	25,967
- Cash and cash equivalents	0	0	0	27,971	28,697	5,511
- Long-term debtors	767	1,222	1,124	0	0	0
Total Investments	11,290	1,225	1,127	146,445	143,654	118,599

Transferred debt arising from local government reorganisation in 1974 and 1986 that is administered by other local authorities on behalf of the Council has been excluded from the financial instrument balances due to its statutory nature.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

b) Financial Instruments Gains and Losses

The gains and losses recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in relation to financial instruments are made up as follows:

	Financial Liabilities - measured at amortised cost £000	Financial Assets - loans and receivables £000	Total £000
2009/10			
Interest payable and similar charges	(9,192)	0	(9,192)
Interest and investment income	0	2,133	2,133
Net gain/(loss) for the year	(9,192)	2,133	(7,059)
2010/11	£000	£000	£000
Interest payable and similar charges	(12,913)	0	(12,913)
Interest and investment income	0	1,285	1,285
Net gain/(loss) for the year	(12,913)	1,285	(11,628)

The interest expense excludes statutory transferred debt interest of (and therefore differs from the figure reported in Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement by) £0.301m in 2010/11 (£0.346m in 2009/10).

The large increase in net loss in 2010/11 can be explained as follows:

- by the beginning of the year three new Centres for Learning had been added to the balance sheet under the Council's Private Finance Initiative (PFI) scheme, resulting in a significant increase in associated interest charges during 2010/11; and
- the much lower interest income for 2010/11 reflects the reduction in the level of investments placed as the Council has chosen, while safe investment opportunities and returns remain limited, to use its existing resources rather than taking out new loans to fund capital expenditure.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

c) Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities Carried at Amortised Cost

Financial liabilities and financial assets represented by loans and receivables are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. Their fair value can be assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that will take place over the remaining term of the instruments, using the following assumptions which do not have a material effect on the fair value of the instrument:

- no early repayment or impairment is recognised;
- interest is calculated using the most common market convention. Where a relevant date occurs on a non working day the interest value and date have not been adjusted;
- where interest is paid/received every six months on a day basis, the value of interest is rounded to two equal instalments;
- for fixed term deposits it is assumed that interest is received on maturity; and
- the fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.

The following methodology has been adopted:

Public Works Loan Board debt

The new borrowing rate, as opposed to the premature repayment rate, has been used as the discount factor for calculating the fair value for all Public Works Loan Board borrowing. This is because the premature repayment rate includes a margin which represents the lender's profit as a result of rescheduling the loan, and which the Council considers would distort the fair value.

Inclusion of accrued interest

The purpose of the fair value disclosure is primarily to provide a comparison with the carrying value in the Balance Sheet. Since this includes accrued interest as at the Balance Sheet date, the accrued interest up to and including the valuation date is also included in the fair value calculation.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Discount rates used to calculate present value

The rates used in the fair value calculation were obtained from the market on 31 March 2011, using bid prices where applicable.

The fair values calculated are as follows:

	1 April 2009		31 March 2010		31 March 2011	
	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Financial Liabilities						
Lender Offer Borrower Option Loan	17,493	16,243	17,494	18,525	17,495	18,088
Public Works Loan Board Loan	110,095	109,366	105,963	102,051	105,911	92,987
Temporary Loans	10,001	10,000	0	0	0	0
	137,589	135,609	123,457	120,576	123,406	111,075
Financial Assets						
Fixed Term Deposits	110,742	111,602	88,480	88,711	80,951	81,066
Call Account Investments	0	0	0	0	6,173	6,173
Cash Equivalents (Money Market Funds)	24,310	24,310	22,561	22,561	0	0
Interest Free Loan	1,177	1,177	538	538	538	538
	136,229	137,089	111,579	111,810	87,662	87,777

The fair values for trade and other payables and receivables, cash balances and long term debtors are not included in the above table, as the fair value is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.

Financial liabilities

Lender Offer Borrower Option

The fair value is higher than the carrying amount because the Council's Lender Offer Borrower Option portfolio includes a number of fixed rate loans where the interest payable is higher than the rates available for similar loans at the balance sheet date. This commitment to pay interest above current market rates increases the amount that the Council would have to pay if the lender requested or agreed to early repayment of the loans.

Public Works Loan Board

The fair value is less than the carrying amount because the Council's Public Works Loan Board portfolio includes a number of fixed rate loans where interest payable is lower than the rates available for similar loans at the balance sheet date. This commitment to pay interest below current market rates reduces the amount that the Council would have to pay if the lender requested or agreed to early repayment of the loans. The Public Works Loan Board's alternative calculations, based on the rates relevant to the premature repayment of loans, show the fair value of loans outstanding as at 31 March 2011 is £112.965m. This represents a variance of £19.978m when compared to the valuations above, prepared using rates available for new loans.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Financial Assets

Fixed term deposits

The fair value is higher than the carrying amount because the Council's portfolio of investments includes a number of fixed rate deposits where the interest rate receivable is higher than the rates available for similar deposits at the balance sheet date. This guarantee to receive interest above current market rates increases the amount that the Council would receive if it agreed to early repayment of the deposits. The £0.003m of investments in 3.5% Treasury Stock is also included here, the carrying value of which is deemed to be a reasonable approximation of the fair value.

Call account investments and Money Market Funds

The carrying value is deemed to be a reasonable approximation of fair value due to the nature of these short term variable interest rate investments.

Interest free loan

On 22 December 2008 an interest free loan of £1.184m was made to Huyton Churches, the repayment terms of which were renegotiated during 2010/11. In line with the Council's accounting policies for soft loans an additional notional loss of interest based on 3.75%, the prevailing market rate when the loan was granted, has been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Following this adjustment, this leaves a carrying value at the balance sheet date of £0.538m, comprising a £0.367m long term debtor and a £0.171m short term debtor. As there is no active market for the loan the carrying amount, which has been calculated using an effective interest rate, is deemed to be a reasonable approximation of the fair value.

43. NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Council's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks:

- Credit risk – other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the Council;
- Liquidity risk – the Council might not have funds available to meet its commitments; and
- Market risk – financial loss might arise for the Council as a result of changes in such measures as interest rates and stock market movements.

The Council's overall risk management programme focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on Council resources. Risk management is carried out by a central team with written policies. The Council's approach to financial instruments is strengthened by its adoption of CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management in the Public Services; its 2010/11 Treasury Management Strategy (approved by the Council on 3 March 2010); and its Treasury Management Practices (TMPs) that include specific areas such as interest rate risk, credit risk, and the investment of surplus cash. In this way the Council aims to achieve the optimum return on its investments whilst ensuring proper levels of security and liquidity.

In accordance with CIPFA's Prudential Code, the Council has set and regularly monitors treasury management indicators for the following three years to control key financial instrument risks. Accordingly, these indicators limit:

- The Council's overall borrowing;
- Its maximum and minimum exposures to fixed and variable interest rates;
- Its maximum and minimum exposures regarding the maturing structure of its debt; and
- Its maximum exposures to investments maturing beyond one year.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Credit risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Council's customers. The Council's policy is to ensure that high investment rates are not secured at the expense of unacceptable credit risk, by capping its exposure to financial institutions. As many separate institutions increasingly fall under a single group umbrella, where one banking licence is held by a parent company, the Council also sets group limits in order to minimise its counterparty risk to a single banking group.

In accordance with the Council's approved investment strategy, the Council uses Fitch ratings to derive its investment counterparty list which places limits on the value and duration over which investments can be made with approved counterparties and groups. Where a counterparty does not have a Fitch rating, the equivalent Moody's rating will be used. The Council is alerted to changes in Fitch ratings through the use of its advisor's creditworthiness service. If a downgrade results in the counterparty or investment scheme no longer meeting the Council's minimum criteria for that class of investment, its further use as a new investment is immediately restricted to a lesser category or, if necessary, withdrawn completely until such a time as the counterparty's financial standing improves again.

Fitch's long term rating AAA denotes the highest credit quality with the lowest expectation of default risk. The lowest Fitch long term rating the Council used at the balance sheet date was AA- which denotes a high credit quality with an expectation of low to very low default risk.

Fitch's short term rating F1 denotes the highest short term credit quality, indicating the strongest intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial payments. An added "+" denotes any exceptionally strong credit features. The lowest Fitch short term rating the Council used at the balance sheet date was F1+.

Fitch's individual ratings are assigned to banks and building societies that are legal entities. A scale of A-F is used where A is the strongest and F denotes a bank/building society has actually defaulted on repayments or in Fitch's opinion would have defaulted if it had not received external support.

The lowest Fitch individual rating the Council had used at the balance sheet date was C/D. This counterparty and one other without an individual rating is a part nationalised UK bank. While previously only UK fully nationalised banks were included on the Council's lending list, the UK part nationalised banks were added back in 2009. Although these banks are no longer separate institutions in their own right and may therefore have credit ratings that do not conform to the minimum credit criteria, deposits made with them are effectively being made, at least in part, to the UK Government and are therefore considered low risk by the Council as long as the UK Government support continues.

Fitch's support ratings are an assessment of a potential supporter's propensity to support a bank/building society and of its ability to support it. Its propensity to support is a judgement made by Fitch ratings. Its ability to support is set by the potential supporter's own Issuer Default Ratings. A scale of 1-5 is used where 1 indicates a bank where there is an extremely high probability of external support and 5 is where external support, although possible, cannot be relied upon. The lowest Fitch support rating the Council had used at the balance sheet date was 1.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

While the collapse of the Icelandic banks in 2008 did not directly affect the Council, it served to highlight the limitations of sole reliance on credit ratings which traditionally look at an institution's basic financial position and focus on the longer term view of the firm. The Council's advisors now provide additional analysis of the spread of credit default swaps (financial instruments which insure against debt default) held by a counterparty, as an overlay to the credit ratings to provide extra information to ascertain the market's perception of the credit quality of an institution. The Council uses this market information in conjunction with the usual credit rating analysis to provide a more rounded assessment of the creditworthiness of an institution, and thereby assess credit risk more effectively.

The Council will also lend to other local authorities from time to time, according to demand for funds and return available. While local authorities do not have any credit ratings, due to their nature they are considered to pose negligible risk for the Council's funds.

At the balance sheet date the credit criteria in respect of investments held by the Council was as follows:

Counterparty Category	Criteria					Maximum Investment & Duration per Institution / Group	Total Exposure 31 March 2011 £000
	Country Rating	Fitch Long Term Rating	Fitch Short Term Rating	Fitch Individual Rating	Fitch Support Rating		
UK Banks	UK AAA	AA-	F1+	B	1	£18m / up to six months	13,000
UK Banks	UK AAA	AA-	F1+	B	1	£18m / up to three months	12,510
UK Building Society	UK AAA	AA-	F1+	B	1	£18m / up to six months	17,120
UK Bank (part nationalised)	UK AAA	AA-	F1+	C	1	£25m / up to one year	25,000
UK Bank (part nationalised)	UK AAA	AA-	F1+	C/D	1	£25m / up to one year	13,000
UK Bank (part nationalised)	UK AAA	AA-	F1+	none	1	£25m / up to one year	6,160
UK Treasury Stock	Not applicable					Not applicable	3
Total Exposure to Credit Risk from Investments at 31 March 2011							86,793
Accrued interest at 31 March 2011							331
Total Exposure to Credit Risk including accrued interest at 31 March 2011							87,124

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

The following analysis (excluding amounts held in the Council's own bank account and services covered by statute where the credit risk is deemed minimal) summarises the Council's potential maximum exposure to credit risk, based on past experience of default and uncollectability, adjusted to reflect current market conditions:

	Amount at 31 March 2011 (carrying amount) £000	Historical Experience of default %	Historical Experience adjusted for market conditions at 31 March 2011 %	Estimated Maximum exposure to default and uncollectability £000
Total Investments (per previous table)	87,124	0	0	0
Interest Free Loan	538	0	100	538
Mortgagors	424	0	0	0
Car loans/Employee Related Debtors	256	0	0	0
Other Debtors	12,002	4	4	480
Total	100,344			1,018

No breaches of the Council's counterparty criteria occurred during the reporting period; there were no instances of counterparties failing to meet contractual obligations in relation to deposits maturing during the financial year; and the Council does not expect any future losses from non-performance by any of its counterparties in relation to investments outstanding at the balance sheet date.

The only experience of default on investments that local authorities have experienced over the last five years was from the Icelandic banks defaulting in October 2008. In accordance with the Council's investment priorities of the security of capital and the liquidity of its investments, the Council has no exposure to Icelandic Banks as they have never featured on the Council's approved lending list.

The original terms of the interest free loan to Huyton Churches incorporated two payment dates with full repayment to be received by 31 May 2009; however there remains £0.538m outstanding at 31 March 2011. The Council has renegotiated with Huyton Churches for this to be received in three equal annual instalments by 31 May 2013. The Accounts therefore recognise a potential exposure to credit risk if this loan was not repaid; however the Council does not at this stage expect this situation to arise.

On 31 March 2011 the Council held 89 mortgage accounts. Although a high proportion of these accounts have arrears, only one account has been referred for legal action during 2010/11 and it is expected that the threat of action will be sufficient to generate payment of the arrears. The remainder are under managed repayment arrangements and the value of the mortgagee's home is secured as collateral against the default risk. Cases with arrears exceeding three months are routinely monitored, and the Council uses a specialist Loan and Mortgages Administrative Service to manage the accounts and recover arrears.

Both car loans and other employee related debt are recovered through automatic salary deductions, thereby eliminating any risk of default. If an employee leaves the Council and has debt outstanding, the credit risk is transferred to other entities and individuals.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Other debtors at 31 March 2011 include £11.796m of other entities and individuals and £0.206m of contractually based other local authority debtors. The Council does not generally allow credit for customers, such that £4.150m of the total other entities and individuals balance is past its due date for payment. The past due amount can be analysed by age as follows:

	£000
Less than three months	3,717
Three to six months	126
Six months to one year	78
More than one year	229
	4,150

The Council has a clearly documented credit policy setting out the Council-wide responsibilities to minimise the risk to the Council of income that cannot be collected, or is difficult to collect. Debt is managed centrally with system-based recovery routines and overdue letter cycles. All available recovery methods are utilised including telephone collection, external collection agents, bankruptcy and charging orders where appropriate. A comprehensive analysis of all outstanding debt is undertaken, and collection performance monitored and reported to senior management, on a monthly basis throughout the year.

The Council makes a provision for past due debtors based on the actual collection performance of previous years and according to the perceived level of risk associated with those debtors. All activities are supported by written procedures and policies including a Debt Recovery Strategy, Write-Off Policy and Partnership Working Agreement with Legal Services.

Liquidity Risk

The Council has a comprehensive cash flow management system that seeks to ensure that cash is available as needed. In addition to maintaining liquid balances that can be drawn upon as required, the Council has ready access to borrowings both from the Public Works Loans Board and commercial lenders. Therefore, there is no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments. Instead, there is a risk that the Council will be bound to replenish a significant proportion of its longer term debt portfolio at a time of unfavourable interest rates. The strategy is therefore to keep the upper limit of fixed rate borrowing to mature in each period as shown in the table below:

Maturity Period of Fixed Rate Borrowing	Upper limit of Fixed Rate Borrowing to mature in each period	Public Works Loan Board Maturity at 31 March 2011 £000	Lender Offer Borrower Option Maturity at 31 March 2011 £000	Total Maturity at 31 March 2011 £000	Actual % Maturity of Fixed Rate Borrowing at 31 March 2011
Under 12 months	15%	4,483	195	4,678	4%
1-2 years	15%	66	12,300	12,366	10%
2-5 years	50%	64	5,000	5,064	4%
5-10 years	80%	1,148	0	1,148	1%
10 years and above	100%	100,150	0	100,150	81%
		105,911	17,495	123,406	

Through a combination of careful planning of new loans taken out and making early repayments where it is economic to do so, the Council ensures that these prudential targets are achieved. All trade and other payables are due to be paid in less than one year.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Market Risk

Interest Rate Risk

The Council is exposed to risk in terms of its exposure to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on the Council. For instance, a rise in interest rates would have the following effects:

- borrowings at variable rates – interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement will rise;
- borrowings at fixed rates – the fair value of the liabilities will fall;
- investments at variable rates – interest credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement will rise;
- investments at fixed rates – the fair value of the assets will fall.

Borrowings are not carried at fair value, so nominal gains and losses on fixed rate borrowings would not impact on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. During periods of falling interest rates, and where economic circumstances make it favourable, fixed rate loans will be repaid early to limit exposure to losses. The risk of loss is reduced by the fact that a proportion of government grant payable on financing costs will normally move with prevailing interest rates or the Council's cost of borrowing and provide compensation for a proportion of any higher costs.

Changes in interest payable and receivable on variable rate borrowings and investments would be posted to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and affect the General Fund Balance pound for pound. However, the Council did not hold any variable rate borrowing as at 31 March 2011. Both the variable and fixed rate investments held by the Council are not quoted in an active market so movements in their fair value will not impact on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The Council has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk. The treasury management strategy is to aim to keep a maximum of 50% of borrowings in variable rate loans. The treasury management team receives professional advice and has a strategy for assessing interest rate exposure that feeds into the setting of the annual budget and which is used to update the budget quarterly during the year. This allows any adverse changes to be accommodated. The analysis will also advise whether new borrowing taken out is fixed or variable.

According to this assessment strategy, at 31 March 2011, if interest rates had been 1% higher with all other variables held constant, the financial effect would be as follows:

	£000
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate investment assets (no impact on Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement)	277
Decrease in fair value of fixed rate borrowings liabilities (no impact on Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement)	16,420

The impact of a 1% fall in interest rates would be as above but with the movements being reversed.

Currency Exchange Risk

The Council has no financial assets or liabilities denominated in foreign currencies, and it therefore has no exposure to loss arising from movements in currency exchange rates.

Price risk

Under its Treasury Management Strategy, the Council does not invest in equity shares and is therefore not exposed to losses arising from fluctuations in the stock market.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

44. USABLE RESERVES

EARMARKED RESERVES

In addition to the Council's General Balances of £5.270m, the Council also sets aside amounts from General Fund in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans.

Note	Reserve	Balance at 1 April 2009 £000	Movement in 2009/10 £000	Balance at 31 March 2010 £000	Movement in 2010/11 £000	Balance at 31 March 2011 £000
(a)	Schools balances	6,427	(3,193)	3,234	(1,003)	2,231
(b)	Insurance Fund	2,979	(1)	2,978	(29)	2,949
(c)	Centres for Learning	9,262	(851)	8,411	(1,767)	6,644
(d)	Future Schooling in Knowsley programme development	2,444	(1,313)	1,131	(325)	806
(e)	Stockbridge Village Regeneration	4,919	61	4,980	(104)	4,876
(f)	Street Lighting PFI	302	1,110	1,412	767	2,179
(g)	Service Development Reserve	32,853	150	33,003	1,935	34,938
	Total	59,186	(4,037)	55,149	(526)	54,623

Detail of Council Reserves

These earmarked reserves represent funding set aside for future Portfolio and Council-wide expenditure commitments and service developments as follows:

- a) Balances held on delegated budgets to fund future schools expenditure.
- b) Contributions to offset the cost of future insurance claims.
- c) Sinking fund to finance the costs of the seven new Centres for Learning across the Borough.
- d) To fund ongoing development costs associated with the Future Schooling In Knowsley Programme.
- e) To fund the development work associated with the redevelopment of the Stockbridge Village Area.
- f) Contributions to development work on the street lighting private finance initiative scheme.
- g) Council resources set aside for the development, rationalisation or re-focussing of service provision.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

CAPITAL RECEIPTS RESERVE

Income from the disposal of fixed assets is credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve and used for current capital spending, or is set aside for future capital spending.

2009/10 £000		2010/11 £000
0	Balance at 1 April	0
(489)	Capital receipts in year for sales of assets	(1,078)
<u>(489)</u>		
36	Payments re Pooling Housing Capital Receipt	39
453	Capital Receipts applied for future expenditure <small>see i) below</small>	1,039
0	Capital Receipts applied during year – non-current assets	0
<u>0</u>	Balance at 31 March	<u>0</u>

45. UNUSABLE RESERVES

1 April 2009 £000	31 March 2010 £000		31 March 2011 £000
(351,146)	(270,838)	Capital Adjustment Account	(278,249)
(8,409)	(11,184)	Revaluation Reserve	(23,740)
53	75	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	69
200,116	292,224	Pensions Reserve	227,623
552	563	Collection Fund Adjustment Account	(167)
3,181	2,727	Accumulating Compensated Absences Adjustment Account	3,207
4,816	9,594	Unequal Pay Back Pay Account	7,848
(434)	(330)	Capital Receipts Deferred	(249)
<u>(151,271)</u>	<u>(22,831)</u>	Total Unusable Reserves	<u>(63,658)</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

CAPITAL ADJUSTMENT ACCOUNT

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions. The account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Council as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement.

The account contains accumulated gains and losses on Investment Properties. The account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on Property, Plant and Equipment before 1 April 2007, the date that the Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains.

2009/10 £000		2010/11 £000	£000
(351,146)	Balance at 1 April		(270,838)
	Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
100,887	- Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	24,188	
0	- Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	4,843	
1,410	- Amortisation of intangible assets	662	
427	- Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	2,553	
327	- Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gains/losses on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	1,385	
<hr/> (248,095)		<hr/>	33,631
(188)	Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve		(25)
<hr/> (248,283)	Net amount written out of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year		<hr/> (237,232)
	Capital financing applied in the year:		
(1,096)	- Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	(3,967)	
(43)	- Use of Capital Receipts Reserve to finance future capital expenditure	2,928	
(10,954)	- Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	(34,375)	
(1,236)	- Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account	(6,515)	
(7,416)	- Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against General Fund	(8,254)	
(525)	- Principal repayment on external loans	(243)	
(2,530)	- Capital expenditure charged against General Fund	(2,763)	
0	- Other Contributions	(81)	
<hr/> (23,800)		<hr/>	(53,270)
1,245	Movement in the market value of Investment Properties debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		4,109
0	Equal Pay Capitalisation Direction		8,144
<hr/> (270,838)	Balance at 31 March		<hr/> (278,249)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

REVALUATION RESERVE

The Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the Council arising from increases in the value of Property, Plant and Equipment. The balance is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are:

- revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost;
- used in the provision of services and the gains are consumed through depreciation; or
- disposal of and the gains are realised.

The reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 1 April 2007, the date that the reserve was created. Accumulated gains arising before that date are consolidated into the balance on the Capital Adjustment Account.

2009/10 £000		2010/11 £000	£000
(8,409)	Balance as at 1 April		(11,184)
(5,999)	Upward revaluation of assets	(12,581)	
3,141	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	0	
(2,858)	Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services		(12,581)
(1,375)	Difference between the fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	25	
1,458	Accumulated gains on assets sold	0	
83	Amount written off to the Capital Adjustment Account		25
(11,184)	Balance as at 31 March		(23,740)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS ADJUSTMENT ACCOUNT

The Financial Instruments Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for income and expenses relating to certain financial instruments and for bearing losses or benefiting from gains per statutory provisions. The Council uses the account to manage premiums paid on the early redemption of loans and the loss of interest when granting soft loans to third parties. Premiums and interest are debited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when they are incurred, but reversed out of the General Fund Balance to the Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Over time, the expense is posted back to the General Fund Balance in accordance with statutory arrangements for spreading the burden on council tax. In the Council's case, this period is the unexpired term that was outstanding on the loans when they were redeemed, or the remaining term of the soft loan. As a result, of the balance on the Account as at 31 March 2011 £0.034m will be charged to the General Fund over the next six years and the remaining £0.035m will be charged to the General Fund over the next three years.

2009/10 £000		2010/11 £000	£000
53	Balance as at 1 April		75
69	Notional loss incurred in the year on interest free loan and charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	19	
(41)	Proportion of notional loss incurred in previous financial years to be charged against the General Fund Balance in accordance with statutory requirements	(19)	
(6)	Proportion of premiums incurred in previous financial years to be charged against the General Fund Balance in accordance with statutory requirements	(6)	
22	Amount by which finance costs charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in year in accordance with statutory requirements		(6)
75	Balance as at 31 March		69

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

PENSIONS RESERVE

The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The Council accounts for post employment benefits in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the Council makes the employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible. The debit balance on the Pensions Reserve therefore shows a substantial shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Council has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.

The Council is a member of the Merseyside Pension Fund which is responsible for the provision of retirement benefits as set out by the Local Government Pensions scheme. The Council is also liable for all future added years benefits that it has awarded to teachers. Note 14 to the accounts details the Council's participation in these schemes. The underlying assets and liabilities for retirement benefits attributable to the Council at 31 March 2011 are as follows:

2009/10 £000		2010/11 £000
200,116	Balance as at 1 April	292,224
83,059	Actuarial gains or losses on pensions assets and liabilities	(36,812)
27,846	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(9,141)
(18,797)	Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(18,648)
292,224	Balance as at 31 March	227,623

	Funded Liabilities: Merseyside Pension Fund		Unfunded Liabilities: Teachers Pension Fund		Total	
	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000
Reconciliation of Liabilities						
1 April	(481,742)	(668,917)	(16,772)	(19,514)	(498,514)	(688,431)
Current Service Cost	(8,866)	(14,631)	-	-	(8,866)	(14,631)
Interest Cost	(33,841)	(37,298)	(1,139)	(1,034)	(34,980)	(38,332)
Contributions	(5,642)	(5,622)	-	-	(5,642)	(5,622)
Actuarial gains/(losses)	(161,061)	37,754	(3,051)	(674)	(164,112)	37,080
Benefits paid	24,734	26,008	1,448	1,433	26,182	27,441
Past Service Costs	(2,499)	35,402	-	1,090	(2,499)	36,492
31 March	(668,917)	(627,304)	(19,514)	(18,699)	(688,431)	(646,003)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Merseyside Pension Fund

	2009/10 £'000	2010/11 £'000
Reconciliation of Assets		
1 April	298,398	396,207
Expected rate of return	18,499	25,612
Actuarial gains and (losses)	81,053	(268)
Employer Contributions	17,349	17,215
Contributions by scheme members	5,642	5,622
Benefits paid	(24,734)	(26,008)
31 March	396,207	418,380

The expected return on scheme assets is determined by considering the expected returns available on the assets underlying the current investment policy. Expected yields on fixed interest investments are based on gross redemption yields as at the Balance Sheet date. Expected returns on equity investments reflect long-term real rates of return experienced in the respective markets.

The actual return on scheme assets in the year was £25.344m (2009/10: £99.552m). Total liabilities (including Teacher's Pensions) exceed assets by £227.623m (2009/10: £292.224m). The Fund's Actuary is required to set contribution rates to meet 100% of the overall liabilities of the Fund.

Scheme History

	2006/07 £'000	2007/08 £'000	2008/09 £'000	2009/10 £'000	2010/11 £'000
Present value of liabilities:					
Merseyside Pension Fund	(496,966)	(571,472)	(481,742)	(668,917)	(627,304)
Teachers Pension Fund	(17,705)	(19,709)	(16,772)	(19,514)	(18,699)
Fair value of assets:					
Merseyside Pension Fund	364,969	359,833	298,398	396,207	418,380
Surplus / Deficit in the scheme:					
Merseyside Pension Fund	(131,997)	(211,639)	(183,344)	(272,710)	(208,924)
Teachers Pension Fund	(17,705)	(19,709)	(16,772)	(19,514)	(18,699)
Total	(149,702)	(231,348)	(200,116)	(292,224)	(227,623)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the authority has in the long run to pay retirement benefits. The total liability of £227.623m has a substantial impact on the net worth of the authority as recorded in the Balance Sheet. However, statutory arrangements for funding the deficit mean that the financial position of the authority remains healthy:

- the deficit on the Merseyside Pension Fund will be made good by increased contributions over the remaining working life of employees, as assessed by the scheme actuary,
- finance is only required to be raised to cover Teachers' pensions when the pensions are actually paid.

The total contributions expected to be made to the Merseyside Pension Fund by the Council in the year to 31 March 2012 is £17.810m.

Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

The liabilities are the underlying commitments that the Council has to pay for retirement benefits in the future. These have been assessed by the Fund's actuaries, Mercer Limited, using estimates of pension benefits payable in future years, based on assumptions of mortality rates, salary levels and other financial estimates.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

The principal assumptions used by the actuary have been:

	Merseyside Pension Fund		Teachers Pension Fund	
	2009/10	2010/11	2009/10	2010/11
Long-term expected rate of return on assets in the scheme:				
Equities	7.5%	7.5%	n/a	n/a
Government bonds	4.5%	4.4%	n/a	n/a
Other bonds	5.2%	5.1%	n/a	n/a
Property	6.5%	6.5%	n/a	n/a
Cash/Liquidity	0.5%	0.5%	n/a	n/a
Other	7.5%	7.5%	n/a	n/a
Mortality assumptions:				
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners				
Men	20.4	21.4	20.4	21.4
Women	23.2	24.1	23.2	24.1
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners				
Men	21.3	22.8	n/a	n/a
Women	24.1	25.7	n/a	n/a
Actuarial assumptions:				
Rate of inflation	3.3%	3.4%	3.2%	3.3%
Rate of increase in salaries	4.55%	4.4%	n/a	n/a
Rate of increase in pensions	3.3%	2.9%	3.2%	2.8%
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	5.6%	5.5%	5.5%	5.4%

The Teachers Pension Scheme has no assets to cover its liabilities. The Merseyside Pension Fund's assets consist of the following categories, by proportion of the assets held:

	2009/10	2010/11
Equities	63.6%	60.7%
Government Bonds	12.1%	10.7%
Other Bonds	6.6%	6.7%
Property	6.3%	7.9%
Cash / Liquidity	2.6%	2.3%
Other Assets	8.8%	11.7%
	100.0%	100.0%

History of Experience Gains and Losses

The actuarial gains and losses identified as movements on the Pensions Reserve in 2010/11 can be analysed into the following categories, measured as a percentage of assets or liabilities at 31 March:

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
	%	%	%	%	%
Differences between the expected and actual return on assets	0.0	(8.5)	(29.6)	(20.5)	0.1
Experienced gains and losses on liabilities	5.1	(4.2)	0.0	0.0	(6.9)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

COLLECTION FUND ADJUSTMENT ACCOUNT

The Collection Fund Adjustment Account manages the differences arising from the recognition of council tax income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as it falls due from council tax payers compared with the statutory arrangements for paying across amounts to the General Fund from the Collection Fund.

2009/10 £000		2010/11 £000
552	Balance at 1 April	563
11	Amount by which council tax income credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is different from council tax income calculated for the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(730)
<u>563</u>	Balance at 31 March	<u>(167)</u>

ACCUMULATED ABSENCES ACCOUNT

The Accumulated Absences Account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the General Fund Balance from accruing for compensated absences earned but not taken in the year e.g. annual leave entitlement carried forward at 31 March. Statutory arrangements require that the impact on the General Fund Balance is neutralised by transfers to or from the Account.

2009/10 £000		2010/11 £000	£000
3,181	Balance as at 1 April		2,727
(3,181)	Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceeding year	(2,727)	
2,727	Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	3,207	
<u>(454)</u>	Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements		480
<u>2,727</u>	Balance as at 31 March		<u>3,207</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

UNEQUAL PAY BACK PAY ACCOUNT

The Unequal Pay Back Pay Account compensates for the differences between the rate at which the Council provides for the potential costs of back pay settlements in relation to Equal Pay cases and the ability under statutory provisions to defer the impact on the General Fund Balance until such time as cash might be paid out to claimants.

2009/10 £000		2010/11 £000	£000
4,816	Balance as at 1 April		9,594
4,778	Increase in provision for back pay in relation to Equal Pay cases	6,398	
0	Capitalisation Direction applied in year	(8,144)	
4,778	Amount by which amounts charged for Equal Pay claims to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from the cost of settlements chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements		(1,746)
9,594	Balance as at 31 March		7,848

DEFERRED CAPITAL RECEIPTS RESERVE

The Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve holds the gains recognised on the disposal of non-current assets but for which cash settlement has yet to take place. Under statutory arrangements, the Council does not treat these gains as usable for financing new capital expenditure until they are backed by cash receipts. When the deferred cash settlement eventually takes place, amounts are transferred to the Capital Receipts Reserve.

2009/10 £000		2010/11 £000
(434)	Balance at 1 April	(330)
104	Transfer to the Capital Receipts Reserve upon receipt of cash	81
(330)	Balance at 31 March	(249)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

46. TRUST FUNDS

The Council administers a number of Funds as sole trustee. These Funds are related principally to legacies left by individual benefactors over a period of years.

	1 April 2009 £000	31 March 2010 £000	£000	£000	31 March 2011 £000
King George V Playing Fields	836	828	0	0	828
A permanent endowment from the sale of land left to KMBC from benefactors.					0
Health and Social Care Trust Funds (Note i)	125	244	187	(166)	265
Huyton Distress Fund	42	43	0	0	43
Long standing trust fund - for hardship cases within the area of Huyton.					0
Children and Family Services Trust Funds (Note ii)	8	8	0	0	8
Larry Nolan	41	41	0	(5)	36
Created in August 2007 and became a trust fund in Oct 2008. The plans for the fund include prizes for the Larry Nolan Award, funding of a memorial and the					0
Sean Hughes	15	15	0	0	15
Established in 1990, deed amended in May 2000 - to promote the study of history and/or politics by awarding scholarships or bursaries and to create a dedicated section within Huyton Library providing books on history and/or politics purchased through the fund.					0
	1,067	1,179	187	(171)	1,195

Note i) These funds include:

Criminal Injury Client Funds	Client funds held in trust due to criminal injuries.
Edmund S Morrow	Client funds to be released to learning disability revenue.
Area Child Protection	Contribution in excess of expenditure for Knowsley Child Protection Committee - developments under way to use some of this money in the next few years.
Appointee Client Funds	Client funds held by the council where the Council has been made the appointee.

Note ii) These funds include:

Huyton Higher Education Prize	Established in 1944 (approximately) as an annual prize for attendance and progress at evening classes.
Huyton with Roby CE Endowment	The Trust was transferred from Lancashire to Knowsley in 1974 and is thought to date back to 1829.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

46. TRUST FUNDS (Cont'd)

Other funds administered by the Council

	Balance 1 April 2009 £000	Balance 31 March 2010 £000	Receipts £000	Payments £000	Balance 31 March 2011 £000
Charles McGee	6	6	0	0	6
Established in 1982 - to provide holidays for the disabled who reside in the Borough					0
Fred Curran	52	53	0	0	53
Established in 1990 - to provide funding assistance for disabled athletes who reside in the Borough relevant to training for and participation in Special Olympics					0
Mayors Charity	30	30	43	(44)	29
Established in 1975 - to raise funds for charitable purposes in the Borough as the trustees think fit					0
	88	89	43	(44)	88

47. INTEREST IN COMPANIES

2020 Knowsley Ltd.

2020 Knowsley Ltd. was set up on 1 April 2005 as a formally incorporated Company between the Council and 2020 Liverpool Ltd (itself an incorporated company between Liverpool City Council and Mouchel Parkman Services Ltd.) for the purpose of providing a range of design consultancy services as described in its Services Partnering Agreement between the company and the Council. 2020 Liverpool Ltd. has a majority shareholding of 801 (80.1%) of the 1000 £1 ordinary shares. The Council's holding of 199 shares is therefore a minority share and is less than that required for the company to be regarded as an influenced company. As the company is a private company limited by shares, the Council has no liability to contribute to any debts of the company including accumulated losses.

The company had net liabilities of £0.140m at 31 March 2011 (£0.020m at 31 March 2010) and reported a pre tax loss of £0.120m as at that date (profit of £0.082m in 2009/10). Copies of the company's accounts can be obtained from Pete Seddon, 2020 Knowsley Ltd. 9 West Street, Prescot Knowsley, Merseyside, L34 1LF.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

48. GROUP ACCOUNTS

The Council, where it has an interest in entities that would otherwise be regarded as subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures under the Companies Acts, is required to produce supplementary information in the form of summarised group accounts. The Council has reviewed its relationships with third parties under these requirements and has concluded that for 2010/11 it has no such interests.

49. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The Council is aware that there is a risk that possible future costs could arise from the local implementation of the national single status agreement. The Council has undertaken a comprehensive job evaluation exercise and is currently moderating with the aim of resolving the issue with a break even outcome in respect of future costs. It is however recognised that there may be a one-off cost to the Council in respect of back pay settlements and protected pay arrangements, but the Council is currently working towards achieving a settlement that is cost neutral.

The Council is awaiting legal guidance regarding the repayment of income from Land Charges. The Council has provided in the Accounts for the possible repayment of £0.197m, however subject to the final nature of this guidance there may be the potential for repayments to be backdated as far as January 2005 and may therefore exceed this sum.

The Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation (YPO) is a joint committee of which the Council is a member authority. The YPO has been asked by a regulatory body to provide information in relation to its activities as a public sector purchasing organisation. At present it is not known whether this will lead to any action or if there will be any financial impact for the Council.

There are no other significant contingent liabilities at 31 March 2011 other than those that have been properly recorded and disclosed in the financial statements. In particular:

- there is no other significant pending or threatened litigation, other than those already disclosed in the financial statements; and,
- there are no other material commitments or contractual issues, other than those already disclosed in the financial statements.

50. CONTINGENT ASSETS

During 2010/11, the Council was successful in pursuing a VAT reclaim from HM Revenues and Customs. This claim covered output tax overpaid by the Council between 1989/94 due to discrepancies between UK and European law during that period. The Council was awarded simple interest in settlement of the claim; however a further claim has been submitted for compound interest to be awarded. It is not yet known if this claim will be successful.

The Council had no other contingent assets as at 31 March 2011.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

51. CASH FLOW STATEMENT – OPERATING ACTIVITIES

The cash flows for operating activities included the following items:

2009/10 £000		2010/11 £000
(2,994)	Interest received	(2,305)
9,528	Interest paid	13,453

52. CASH FLOW STATEMENT – INVESTING ACTIVITIES

The cash flows for investment activities included the following items:

2009/10 £000		2010/11 £000
	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	74,808
16,342		
401,555	Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	233,776
560	Other payments for investing activities	0
	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(1,078)
(489)		
(422,965)	Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	(234,126)
(19,260)	Other receipts from investing activities	(21,595)
<u>(24,257)</u>	Net cash flows from investing activities	<u>51,785</u>

53. CASH FLOW STATEMENT – FINANCING ACTIVITIES

The cash flows for financing activities included the following items:

2009/10 £000		2010/11 £000
0	Cash receipts of short-term and long-term borrowing	(8,380)
0	Other receipts from financing activities	(1,265)
	Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases and on-balance sheet PFI contracts	1,896
1,639		
14,796	Repayments of short-term and long-term borrowing	8,432
4,335	Other payments for financing activities	0
<u>20,770</u>	Net cash flows from financing activities	<u>683</u>

COLLECTION FUND

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

The Collection Fund Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement shows income collected from the Council Tax and Business Rates.

2009/10 £000		2010/11 £000	£000
	Income		
(41,209)	Council Tax Receivable		(42,851)
	Transfers (from)/to General Fund		
<u>(18,700)</u>	- Council Tax Benefit		<u>(20,113)</u>
(59,909)			(62,964)
(35,409)	Income Collectable from Business Ratepayers		(35,161)
-	Contributions towards previous year's deficit		(656)
<u>(95,318)</u>	Total Income		<u>(98,781)</u>
	Expenditure		
59,524	Precepts and Demands (Note 1)		62,139
	Business Rates		
35,270	- Payment to National Non Domestic Rate Pool	35,026	
139	- Costs of Collection	<u>135</u>	
			35,161
	Bad and Doubtful Debts		
197	- Write-offs	347	
199	- Provisions	<u>283</u>	
			630
<u>95,329</u>	Total Expenditure		<u>97,930</u>
<u>11</u>	Movement on fund balance		<u>(851)</u>
	Collection Fund Balances		
645	Balance at beginning of year		656
<u>11</u>	Movement on fund balance		<u>(851)</u>
<u>656</u>	(Surplus)/Deficit at end of year		<u>(195)</u>

NOTES TO THE COLLECTION FUND

1. PRECEPTS AND DEMANDS

The following table shows the authorities who have made a significant precept or demand on the Collection Fund in 2010/11:

2009/10 Total £000		Precept/ Demand £000	Share of 31 March 2011 Surplus £000	Total £000
50,992	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council	53,306	168	53,474
5,910	Merseyside Police Authority	6,122	20	6,142
2,622	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority	2,711	7	2,718

2. COUNCIL TAX BASE 2010/11

Most dwellings within the Borough are subject to Council Tax and each dwelling is allocated to one of eight bands according to its open Market capital value at 1 April 1991. Each band is then converted to a "Band D Equivalent" to establish the Tax Base.

Band	Value	Number of Dwellings	Band D Equivalent
A	Up to £40,000	37,055	24,703
B	£40,001 to £52,000	13,020	10,127
C	£52,001 to £68,000	8,769	7,795
D	£68,001 to £88,000	3,861	3,861
E	£88,001 to £120,000	1,475	1,803
F	£120,001 to £160,000	274	396
G	£160,001 to £320,000	127	212
H	Over £320,000	17	34
		64,598	48,931
Less Exemptions and Discounts			(6,646)
Collection Rate (Estimated)			99%
Council Tax Base 2010/11			41,862

NOTES TO THE COLLECTION FUND

3. 2010/11 Council Tax

The 2010/11 basic amount of Council Tax for properties at Band D was calculated as follows:

	£000	£000
Total Budget Requirement		171,781
<u>Less Resources:</u>		
Revenue Support Grant	(15,022)	
National Non-Domestic Rate Pool	(103,453)	(118,475)
Demand on the Collection Fund		53,306
Demand on the Collection Fund (£)	=	53,305,949
Council Tax Base (Band D Equivalents)		41,862
= Basic Amount of Council Tax at Band D (£)		1,273.37

4. NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES (BUSINESS RATES)

The National Non Domestic Rate (more commonly known as the Business Rate) is organised on a national basis. The Government specifies a rate in the pound and, subject to any transitional arrangements, local businesses pay rates calculated by multiplying the rateable value of their property by the rate in the pound set at 41.4p for 2010/11 (48.5p in 2009/10).

The Council is responsible for collecting Business Rates from payers within its area on behalf of the Government. Sums collected are held initially within the Council's Collection Fund and then paid into the National Non Domestic Rate Pool administered by the Government. The Government redistributes the sums paid into the Pool back to Local Authorities on the basis of a fixed amount per head of population.

The Business Rates income to the General Fund in 2009/10 was based on a rateable value as at 31 March 2010 of £102,344m (£86.516m at 31 March 2009).

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2010/11 financial year and its overall financial position as at 31 March 2011. The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (2006 Amendments) which require them to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2010/11 (the Code) and the Best Value Accounting Code of Practice 2010/11, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

The accounting convention adopted in the Statement of Accounts is principally historical cost, modified by the revaluation of certain categories of non-current assets and financial instruments.

B Accounting Concepts

In accordance with the Code, the Council has adopted a number of principles to be followed in selecting accounting policies to be used and the corresponding use of disclosures needed to help users understand those adopted policies and how they have been implemented.

In doing so, the Council intends that the policies adopted are those most appropriate to its particular circumstances for the purposes of presenting a true and fair view of the financial position and transactions of the Council. Policies are reviewed regularly to ensure that they remain appropriate, and are changed when a new policy becomes more appropriate to the Council's circumstances. A full disclosure of any such changes will always be provided.

The concepts that the Council has regard to in selecting and applying the most appropriate policies and estimation techniques are:

- The qualitative characteristics of financial information
 - relevance
 - reliability
 - comparability
 - understandability
 - materiality
- Pervasive accounting concepts
 - accruals
 - going concern
 - primacy of legislative requirements

Accounting policies can be defined as the principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices applied, that specify how the transactions and other events are to be reflected in the financial statements through recognising, selecting measurement bases for, and presenting assets, liabilities, losses and changes in reserves.

Materiality

Accounting policies need not be applied if the effect of applying them would be immaterial. Omissions or misstatements of items are considered material if they could, individually or collectively, influence the decisions or assessments of users made on the basis of the financial statements. Materiality depends on the nature or size of the omission or misstatement judged in the surrounding circumstances.

Although the Code prescribes the requirements for disclosures in the accounts, the Council need not provide a specific disclosure if the information is not material.

Accruals of Income and Expenditure

Activity is accounted for in the year that it takes place, not simply when cash payments are made or received. In particular:

- Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the Council transfers the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the purchaser and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Council.
- Revenue from the provision of services is recognised when the Council can measure reliably the percentage of completion of the transaction and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Council.
- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services supplied by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.
- Interest payable on borrowings and receivable on investments is accounted for on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.
- Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where there is evidence that debts are unlikely to be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

Going Concern

The accounts are prepared on a going concern basis which assumes that the Council will continue in existence for the foreseeable future and that there is no intention to significantly reduce operations.

Primacy of Legislative Requirements

Where specific legislative requirements conflict with accounting principles, legislative requirements are applied.

C Balances

The Council's un-earmarked general balances will be assessed annually by the Borough Treasurer to ensure that they are maintained at an adequate level taking into account the strategic, operational and financial risks facing the authority.

D Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand. Cash equivalents are considered to be deposits with financial institutions that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and repayable without penalty on notice. The Council has classified deposits with Money Market Funds as cash equivalents within the Balance Sheet.

In the Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the Council's cash management.

E Changes in Accounting Policies and Estimates and Errors

Changes in accounting policies are only made when required by proper accounting practices or the change provides more reliable or relevant information about the effect of transactions, other events and conditions on the Authority's financial position or financial performance. Where a change is made, it is applied retrospectively by adjusting opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period as if the new policy had always been applied.

Where the basis for measurement of an amount is uncertain, the Council will use a suitable estimation technique determined by the Borough Treasurer. Where a reasonable estimate has been made, but is subsequently identified as being insufficiently accurate, the Borough Treasurer will amend the Accounts accordingly. Changes in accounting estimates are accounted for prospectively, i.e., in the current and future years affected by the change.

Material errors discovered in prior period figures are corrected retrospectively by amending opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period.

F Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

Services, support services and trading accounts are debited with the following amounts to record the cost of holding fixed assets during the year:

- depreciation attributable to the assets used by the relevant service;
- revaluation and impairment losses on assets used by the service where there are no accumulated gains in the Revaluation Reserve against which the losses can be written off; and
- amortisation of intangible fixed assets attributable to the service.

The Council is not required to raise council tax to cover depreciation, impairment and revaluation losses or amortisations. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from fund balances towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement. This amount is known as the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) and is calculated by the Council on a prudent basis determined by the authority in accordance with statutory guidance. Depreciation, impairment and revaluation losses and amortisations are therefore reversed and replaced by the MRP, by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

G Employee Benefits

Benefits Payable During Employment

Short-term employee benefits are those falling due wholly within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service. These include items such as wages and salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave, bonuses and non-monetary benefits (e.g. cars) for current employees, and are recognised as an expense in services in the year. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements earned by employees but not taken before the year-end and which employees can carry forward into the next financial year.

Termination Benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Council to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy. These benefits are charged on an accruals basis to the Non Distributed Costs line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when the Council is demonstrably committed to either terminating the employment of an officer or group of officers, or making an offer to encourage voluntary redundancy.

Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund or pensioner in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, appropriations are required to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for pension enhancement termination benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end.

Post Employment Benefits

Employees of the Authority are members of two separate pension schemes:

- The Teachers' Pension Scheme, administered by Capita Teachers' Pensions on behalf of the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).
- The Local Government Pensions Scheme, administered by Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council as the Merseyside Pension Fund.

Both schemes provided defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees worked for the Council.

However, the arrangements for the teachers' scheme mean that liabilities for these benefits cannot be identified specifically to the Council. The scheme is therefore accounted for as if it were a defined contributions scheme – no liability for future payments of benefits is recognised in the Balance Sheet and the Education and Children's service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is charged with the employer's contributions payable to Teachers' Pensions in the year.

The Local Government Pension Scheme

The Local Government Scheme is accounted for as a defined benefits scheme. The liabilities of Merseyside Pension Fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc, and projections of projected earnings for current employees.

Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 5.5% (based on the indicative rate of return on high quality corporate bond).

The assets of the fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:

- quoted securities at current bid price;
- unquoted securities at professional estimate;
- unitised securities at current bid price; and
- property at market value.

The change in the net pensions liability is analysed into seven components:

- current service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year – allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked;
- past service cost – the increase in liabilities arising from current year decisions whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years – debited to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Non Distributed Costs;
- interest cost – the expected increase in the present value of liabilities during the year as they move one year closer to being paid – debited to the Finance and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
- expected return on assets – the annual investment return on the fund assets attributable to the Council, based on an average of the expected long-term return – credited to the Finance and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;

- gains/losses on settlements and curtailments – the result of actions to relieve the Council of liabilities or events that reduce the expected future service or accrual of benefits of employees – debited/credited to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Non Distributed Costs;
- actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – debited to the Pensions Reserve; and
- contributions paid to the fund – cash paid as employer's contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are appropriations to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end. The negative balance that arises on the Pensions Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the General Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

Discretionary Benefits

The Council also has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any liabilities estimated to arise as a result of an award to any member of staff (including teachers) are accrued in the year of the decision to make the award and accounted for using the same policies as are applied to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

H Events After the Reporting Period

Events after the reporting period are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue. Two types of events can be identified:

- those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is adjusted to reflect such events; and
- those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is not adjusted to reflect such events, but where a category of events would have a material effect disclosure is made in the notes of the nature of the events and their estimated financial effect.

Events taking place after the date of authorisation for issue are not reflected in the Statement of Accounts.

I Exceptional Items

When items of income and expenditure are material, their nature and amount is disclosed separately, either on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement or in the notes to the accounts, depending on how significant the items are to an understanding of the Council's financial performance.

J Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and initially measured at fair value and carried at their amortised cost. Annual charges to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments over the life of the instrument to the amount at which it was originally recognised.

The Council's borrowing is presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable (plus accrued interest) and interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

Gains and losses on the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing are credited and debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Income and Expenditure Account in the year of repurchase/settlement. However, where repurchase has taken place as part of a restructuring of the loan portfolio that involves the modification or exchange of existing instruments, the premium or discount is respectively deducted from or added to the amortised cost of the new or modified loan and the write-down to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is spread over the life of the loan by an adjustment to the effective interest rate.

Where premiums and discounts have been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, regulations allow the impact on the General Fund Balance to be spread over future years. The Authority has a policy of spreading the gain/loss over the term that was remaining on the loan against which the premium was payable or discount receivable when it was repaid. The reconciliation of amounts charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net charge required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

K Financial Assets

Financial assets are classified into two types:

- loans and receivables – assets that have fixed or determinable payments but are not quoted in an active market; and
- available-for-sale assets – assets that have a quoted market price and/or do not have fixed or determinable payments.

Loans and Receivables

Loans and receivables are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value. They are subsequently measured at their amortised cost. Annual credits to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest receivable are based on the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. The amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal receivable (plus accrued interest) and interest credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement.

Where the Council has made a loan to a third party at less than market rates (a soft loan), a loss is recorded in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (debited to the appropriate service) for the present value of the interest that will be foregone over the life of the instrument, resulting in a lower amortised cost than the outstanding principal. Interest is credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at a marginally higher effective rate of interest than the rate receivable from the voluntary organisations, with the difference serving to increase the amortised cost of the loan in the Balance Sheet. Statutory provisions require that the impact of soft loans on the General Fund

Balance is the interest receivable for the financial year – the reconciliation of amounts debited and credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net gain required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Where assets are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the contract will not be made, the asset is written down and a charge made to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the revised future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate.

Any gains and losses that arise on the derecognition of an asset are credited/debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

L Government Grants and Contributions

Whether paid on account, by instalments or in arrears, government grants and third party contributions and donations are recognised as due to the Council when there is reasonable assurance that:

- the Council will comply with the conditions attached to the payments; and
- the grants or contributions will be received.

Amounts recognised as due to the Council are not credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement until conditions attached to the grant or contribution have been satisfied. Conditions are stipulations that specify that the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the asset acquired using the grant or contribution are required to be consumed as specified or returned to the transferor.

Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as creditors. When conditions are satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service line (attributable revenue grants/contributions) or Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income (non-ring-fenced revenue grants and all capital grants) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where capital grants are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Where the grant has yet to be used to finance capital expenditure, it is posted to the Capital Grants Unapplied Account. Where it has been applied, it is posted to the Capital Adjustment Account. Amounts in the Capital Grants Unapplied Account are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account once they have been applied.

A grant or contribution that becomes repayable shall be accounted for as a revision to an accounting estimate. Repayment shall first be applied to any receipt in advance set up in respect of the grant or contribution. To the extent that the repayment exceeds any such receipt in advance, or where no receipt in advance exists, the repayment shall be recognised within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as an expense.

M Internal Interest

Internal interest is paid to or received from certain accounts, such as school balances, and is included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as contributions to or from reserves. The interest is calculated on the basis of average monthly balances and the 7-day money market rate.

N Intangible Assets

Expenditure on non-monetary assets that do not have physical substance but are controlled by the Council as a result of past events (e.g. software licences) is capitalised when it is expected that future economic benefits or service potential will flow from the intangible asset to the Council.

Internally generated assets are capitalised where it is demonstrable that the project is technically feasible and is intended to be completed (with adequate resources being available) and the Council will be able to generate future economic benefits or deliver service potential by being able to sell or use the asset. Expenditure is capitalised where it can be measured reliably as attributable to the asset and restricted to that incurred during the development phase (research expenditure is not capitalised).

Expenditure on the development of websites is not capitalised if the website is solely or primarily intended to promote or advertise the Council's goods or services.

Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. Amounts are not revalued, as the fair value of the assets held by the Council cannot be determined by reference to an active market. The depreciable amount of an intangible asset is amortised over its useful life to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. An asset is tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset might be impaired – any losses recognised are posted to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or abandonment of an intangible asset is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where expenditure on intangible assets qualifies as capital expenditure for statutory purposes, amortisation, impairment losses and disposal gains and losses are not permitted to have an impact on the General Fund Balance. The gains and losses are therefore reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account and (for any sale proceeds greater than £10,000) the Capital Receipts Reserve.

O Interests in Companies and Other Entities

Councils with material interests in companies and other entities that have the nature of subsidiaries, associates and jointly controlled entities are required to prepare group accounts. In such cases, the Council's own single-entity accounts will reflect the interests in companies and other entities as financial assets at cost, less any provision for losses. The Council has no such arrangements that require group accounts.

P Inventories

Inventories are included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The cost of inventories is assigned using the first in first out basis.

Q Investment Properties

Investment properties are those that are used solely to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation. The definition is not met if the property is used in any way to facilitate the delivery of services or production of goods or is held for sale.

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value, based on the amount at which the asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable parties at arm's length. Properties are not depreciated but are revalued annually according to market conditions at the year-end. Gains and losses on revaluation are posted to the Financing and Investment Income and

Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The same treatment is applied to gains and losses on disposal.

Rentals received in relation to investment properties are credited to the Financing and Investment Income line and result in a gain for the General Fund Balance. However, revaluation and disposal gains and losses are not permitted by statutory arrangements to have an impact on the Balance. The gains and losses are therefore reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account and (for any sale proceeds greater than £10,000) the Capital Receipts Reserve.

R Jointly Controlled Operations and Jointly Controlled Assets

Jointly controlled operations are activities undertaken by the Council in conjunction with other venturers that involve the use of the assets and resources of the venturers rather than the establishment of a separate entity. The Council recognises on its Balance Sheet the assets that it controls and the liabilities that it incurs and debits and credits the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement with the expenditure it incurs and the share of income it earns from the activity of the operation.

Jointly controlled assets are items of property, plant or equipment that are jointly controlled by the Council and other venturers, with the assets being used to obtain benefits for the venturers. The joint venture does not involve the establishment of a separate entity. The Council accounts for its share of the jointly controlled assets, the liabilities and expenses that it incurs on its own behalf or jointly with others in respect of its interest in the joint venture and income that it earns from the venture.

Under Section 31 of the Health Act 1999, the Council is able to establish joint working arrangements with the NHS bodies and to pool funds from the two organisations to create a single budget. Where pooled budgets are established, the Council's accounts reflect only the Council's share of the overall budget and exclude the share attributable to partner organisations.

S Leases

The Council's general approach is to optimise the balance between the use of operating leases, finance leases, and prudential borrowing for the acquisition of vehicles and equipment to ensure the most economic approach for the Council. The Council will assess whether it is appropriate to borrow money to purchase an asset, or alternatively enter into a lease agreement.

Leases are classified as finance leases where the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the property from the lessor to the lessee. All other leases are classified as operating leases.

Where a lease covers both land and buildings, the land and buildings elements are considered separately for classification.

Arrangements that do not have the legal status of a lease but convey a right to use an asset in return for payment are accounted for under this policy where fulfilment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of specific assets.

The Council as Lessee

Finance Leases

Property, plant and equipment held under finance leases is recognised on the Balance Sheet at the commencement of the lease at its fair value measured at the lease's inception (or the present value of the minimum lease payments, if lower). The asset recognised is matched by a liability for the

obligation to pay the lessor. Initial direct costs of the Council are added to the carrying amount of the asset. Premiums paid on entry into a lease are applied to writing down the lease liability.

Lease payments are apportioned between:

- a charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property – applied to write down the lease liability; and
- a finance charge (debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement).

Property, Plant and Equipment recognised under finance leases are accounted for using the policies applied generally to such assets, subject to depreciation being charged over the lease term if this is shorter than the asset's estimated useful life.

The Council is not required to raise council tax to cover depreciation or revaluation and impairment losses arising on leased assets. Instead, a prudent annual contribution is made from revenue funds towards the deemed capital investment in accordance with statutory requirements. Depreciation and impairment losses are therefore substituted by a revenue contribution in the General Fund Balance, by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

Operating Leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as an expense of the services benefitting from use of the leased property, plant or equipment. Charges are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease, even if this does not match the pattern of payments (e.g., there is a rent-free period at the commencement of the lease).

The Council as Lessor

Finance Leases

Where the Council grants a finance lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the relevant asset is written out of the Balance Sheet as a disposal. At the commencement of the lease, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether Property, Plant and Equipment or Assets Held for Sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. A gain, representing the Council's net investment in the lease, is credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal), matched by a Debtor in the Balance Sheet.

Lease rentals receivable are apportioned between:

- a capital receipt for the disposal of the asset – applied to write down the Debtor (together with any premiums received); and
- finance income (credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement).

The gain credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on disposal is not permitted by statute to increase the General Fund Balance and will be required to be treated as a capital receipt. Where a premium has been received, this is posted out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Receipts Reserve in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Where the amount due in relation to the lease asset is to be settled by the payment of rentals in future financial years, this is posted out of the General Fund Balance to the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve in the Movement in Reserves Statement. When the future rentals are received, the element for the capital receipt for the disposal of the asset is used to write down the Debtor. At this point, the deferred capital receipts are transferred to the Capital Receipts Reserve.

The written-off value of disposals is not a charge against council tax, as the cost of fixed assets is fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are appropriated to the Capital Adjustment Account from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Operating Leases

Where the Council grants an operating lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the asset is retained in the Balance Sheet. Rental income is credited to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Credits are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease, even if this does not match the pattern of payments (e.g., there is a premium paid at the commencement of the lease). Initial direct costs incurred in negotiating and arranging the lease are added to the carrying amount of the relevant asset and charged as an expense over the lease term on the same basis as rental income.

T Overheads and Support Services

The costs of overheads and support services are charged to those that benefit from the supply or service in accordance with the costing principles of the CIPFA *Best Value Accounting Code of Practice 2010/11* (BVACOP). The total absorption costing principle is used, so that the full cost of overheads and support services are shared between users in proportion to the benefits received, with the exception of:

- Corporate and Democratic Core – costs relating to the Council's status as a multi-functional, democratic organisation.
- Non Distributed Costs – the cost of discretionary benefits awarded to employees retiring early and any depreciation and impairment losses chargeable on non-operational properties.

These two cost categories are defined in BVACOP and accounted for as separate headings in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, as part of Net Expenditure on Continuing Services.

U Principal and Agent Transactions

The Council's financial statements have regard to the general principle of whether the Council is acting as the principal or agent.

Where the Council acts as a Principal, i.e. it is acting on its own behalf, transactions are included in the Council's financial statements.

Where the Council acts as an agent i.e. it is acting as an intermediary, transactions are not reflected in the Council financial statements, with the exception in respect of cash collected or expenditure incurred by the agent on behalf of the principal, in which case there is a debtor or creditor position and the net cash position being included in financing activities in the cash flow statement.

The Council currently acts as an agent for the collection of NNDR and the preceptor's element of Council Tax. The Council acts as a principal for its own share of Council Tax.

V Property, Plant and Equipment

Assets that have physical substance and are held for use in the production or supply of goods or services, for rental to others or for administrative purposes and that are expected to be used during more than one financial year are classified as Property, Plant and Equipment.

Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. Expenditure that maintains but does not add to an asset's potential to deliver future economic benefits or service potential (i.e., repairs and maintenance) is charged as an expense when it is incurred.

Where a component of an asset is replaced or restored, the current net book value of the old component shall be removed to avoid double counting and the new component reflected in the net book value. In line with the Council's approach to componentisation, only assets where changes would significantly affect the carrying value in the Balance Sheet will be separated into components.

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

- the purchase price; and
- any costs attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

The Council does not capitalise borrowing costs incurred whilst assets are under construction.

Donated assets are measured initially at fair value. The difference between fair value and any consideration paid is credited to the Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, unless the donation has been made conditionally. Until conditions are satisfied, the gain is held in the Donated Assets Account. Where gains are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Assets are then carried in the Balance Sheet using the following measurement bases:

- infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost; and
- all other assets – fair value, determined the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value – EUV).

Where there is no market-based evidence of fair value because of the specialist nature of an asset, depreciated replacement cost is used as an estimate of fair value.

Where non-property assets that have short useful lives or low values (or both), depreciated historical cost basis is used as a proxy for fair value.

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at fair value are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their fair value at the year-end, but as a minimum every five years. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement where they arise from the reversal of a revaluation loss previously charged to a service.

The Revaluation Reserve contains revaluation gains recognised since 1 April 2007 only, the date of its formal implementation. Gains arising before that date have been consolidated into the Capital Adjustment Account.

Impairment

Assets are assessed at each year-end as to whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. Where indications exist and any possible differences are estimated to be material, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated and, where this is less than the carrying amount of the asset, an impairment loss is recognised for the shortfall.

Where impairment losses are identified, they are accounted for by:

- where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains); or
- where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where an impairment loss is reversed subsequently, the reversal is credited to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, up to the amount of the original loss, adjusted for depreciation that would have been charged if the loss had not been recognised.

Revaluation losses

Where the carrying amount of an item of property, plant and equipment is decreased as a result of a revaluation, ie a significant decline in an asset's carrying amount during the period that is not specific to the asset(as opposed to an impairment as detailed above), the decrease shall be recognised in the Revaluation Reserve up to the credit balance existing in respect of the asset and thereafter in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services.

Disposals

When it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through its continuing use, it is reclassified as an Asset Held for Sale. The following criteria have to be met before an asset can be classified as held for sale:

- The asset must be available for immediate sale in its present condition subject to terms that are usual and customary for sales of such assets.
- The sale must be highly probable; the appropriate level of management must be committed to a plan to sell the asset and an active programme to locate a buyer and complete the plan must have been initiated.
- The asset must be actively marketed for a sale at a price that is reasonable in relation to its current fair value.
- The sale should be expected to qualify for recognition as a completed sale within one year of the date of classification.

The asset is revalued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell. Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Gains in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any previously losses recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services. Depreciation is not charged on Assets Held for Sale. Assets that are to be abandoned or scrapped are not reclassified as Assets Held for Sale.

When an asset is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether Property, Plant and Equipment or Assets Held for Sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (ie netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts. A proportion of receipts relating to housing disposals (75% for dwellings, 50% for land and other assets, net of statutory deductions and allowances) is payable to the Government. The balance of receipts is required to be credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve, and can then only be used for new capital investment or set aside to reduce the Council's underlying need to borrow (the capital financing requirement). Receipts are appropriated to the Reserve from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The written-off value of disposals is not a charge against council tax, as the cost of fixed assets is fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are appropriated to the Capital Adjustment Account from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for on all Property, Plant and Equipment assets by the systematic allocation of their depreciable amounts over their useful lives. An exception is made for assets without a determinable finite useful life (i.e., freehold land and certain Community Assets) and assets that are not yet available for use (i.e., assets under construction).

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- buildings – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the property as estimated by the valuer;
- vehicles, plant and equipment – a percentage of the value of each class of assets in the Balance Sheet, as advised by a suitably qualified officer;
- infrastructure – straight-line allocation over 50 years; and
- investment properties and assets held for sale are not depreciated.

Where an item of Property, Plant and Equipment has major components whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately.

Revaluation gains are also depreciated, with an amount equal to the difference between current value depreciation charged on assets and the depreciation that would have been chargeable based on their historical cost being transferred each year from the Revaluation Reserve to the Capital Adjustment Account.

W Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and Similar Contracts

PFI contracts are agreements to receive services, where the responsibility for making available the property, plant and equipment needed to provide the services passes to the PFI contractor. As the Council is deemed to control the services that are provided under its PFI schemes and as ownership of the property, plant and equipment will pass to the Council at the end of the contracts for no additional charge, the Council carries the assets used under the contracts on its Balance Sheet as part of Property, Plant and Equipment.

The original recognition of these assets at fair value (based on the cost to purchase the property, plant and equipment) was balanced by the recognition of a liability for amounts due to the scheme operator to pay for the capital investment. Non-current assets recognised on the Balance Sheet are revalued and depreciated in the same way as property, plant and equipment owned by the Council.

The amounts payable to the PFI operators each year are analysed into five elements:

- fair value of the services received during the year – debited to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
- finance cost – an interest charge on the outstanding Balance Sheet liability, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
- contingent rent – increases in the amount to be paid for the property arising during the contract, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
- payment towards liability – applied to write down the Balance Sheet liability towards the PFI operator; and
- lifecycle replacement costs – recognised as additions to Property, Plant and Equipment on the Balance Sheet when the relevant works are carried out.

X Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Council a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits or service potential, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. For instance, the Council may be involved in a court case that could eventually result in the making of a settlement or the payment of compensation.

Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year that the Council becomes aware of the obligation. They are measured at the best estimate at the balance sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties, and are classified as current or non-current liabilities on the Balance Sheet.

When payments are eventually made, they are charged to the provision set up in the Balance Sheet. Estimated settlements are reviewed at the end of each financial year and where it becomes likely that a payment will not be made or the estimated liability is reduced, the provision is reversed and credited back to the relevant service.

Where some or all of the payment required to settle a provision is expected to be recovered from another party (eg from an insurance claim), this is only recognised as income for the relevant service if it is virtually certain that reimbursement will be received.

The Council has made a provision for the costs of settling potential compensation claims incurred under the Equal Pay Act (Amendment) Regulations 2003 in relation to equal pay for work equal value. However, statutory arrangements allow settlements to be financed from the General Fund in the year that payments actually take place, not when the provision is established. The provision is therefore balanced by an Equal Pay Back Pay Account created from amounts credited to the General Fund balance in the year the provision was made or modified. The balance on the Equal Pay Back Pay Account will be debited back to the General Fund balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement in future financial years as payments are made. The figure included in the accounts does not indicate an expected settlement figure and does not prejudice the Council's ongoing negotiations on this matter.

Contingent Liabilities

A contingent liability arises where an event has taken place that gives the Council a possible obligation whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council. Contingent liabilities also arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made but either it is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably.

Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts.

Contingent Assets

A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place that gives the authority a possible asset whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council.

Contingent assets are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts where it is probable that there will be an inflow of economic benefits or service potential.

Y Reserves

In addition to its General Balances the Council sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes, to cover contingencies or for specific areas of future risk. This allows the Council to manage the impact of its spending in a planned and prudent way. The Council continually reviews these reserves to ensure that they remain appropriate and aligned to the Council's priorities.

Reserves are created by appropriating amounts out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service in that year to score against the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The reserve is then appropriated back into the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement so that there is no net charge against council tax for the expenditure.

Certain reserves are kept to manage the accounting processes for non-current assets, financial instruments and retirement benefits and that do not represent usable resources for the Council – these reserves are explained in the relevant policies below.

Z Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute

Revenue expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions but does not result in the creation of a non-current asset has been charged as expenditure to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year. Where the Council has determined to meet the cost of this expenditure from existing capital resources or by borrowing, a transfer in the Movement in Reserves Statement from the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account then reverses out the amounts charged so that there is no impact on the level of council tax.

AA VAT

Income and expenditure excludes any amounts related to VAT, as all VAT collected is payable to HM Revenue & Customs and all VAT paid is recoverable from it.

AB Work In Progress (Construction Contracts)

Construction contracts entered into whereby the Council is undertaking construction for its customers shall be appropriately reflected in the Council's accounts. When the outcome of a construction contract can be estimated reliably, the percentage of completion method shall be used to recognise revenue and expenses. When the outcome of a construction contract cannot be estimated reliably revenue shall be recognised only to the extent of contract costs incurred that it is probable will be recovered, and contract costs shall be recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.

The Council does not have any such construction contracts.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Those principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices applied by an entity that specify how the effects of transactions and other events are to be reflected in the financial statements through recognising, selecting measurement bases for, and presenting assets, liabilities, gains, losses and changes in reserves. Accounting policies do not include estimation techniques.

ACCRUALS

An accounting concept that requires income and expenditure to be recognised as it is earned or incurred, not as money is received or paid.

ACTUARIAL GAINS AND LOSSES

For a defined benefit pension scheme, the changes in actuarial deficits or surpluses that arise because:

- (i) Events have not coincided with the actuarial assumptions made for the latest valuation (experience gains and losses); or
- (ii) The actuarial assumptions have changed.

AMORTISATION

The equivalent of depreciation for intangible fixed assets.

CAPITAL CHARGES

To reflect the value of an asset being used to provide services, a capital charge is made to the revenue accounts.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Expenditure on the acquisition of a fixed asset or expenditure which adds to, rather than merely maintains, the value of an existing fixed asset. Capital expenditure is normally funded by loans, grants, external contributions, capital receipts or through a revenue contribution.

CAPITAL RECEIPTS

Income received by the Council from the sale of its capital assets.

COMMUNITY ASSETS

Assets that the Local Authority intends to hold in perpetuity, that have no determinable useful life, and that may have restrictions on their disposal. Examples of community assets are parks and historic buildings.

CURRENT SERVICE COST (PENSIONS)

The increase in the present value of a defined benefit scheme's liabilities expected to arise from employee service in the current period.

CURTAILMENT

For a defined benefit scheme, an event that reduces the expected years of future service of present employees or reduces for a number of employees the accrual of defined benefits for some or all of their future service. Curtailments include:

- (i) termination of employees services earlier than expected, for example as a result of closing or discontinuing a segment of business; and
- (ii) termination of, or amendment to the terms of, a defined benefit scheme so that some or all future service by current employees will no longer qualify for benefits or will qualify only for reduced benefits.

DEFERRED CAPITAL RECEIPTS

Amounts derived from the sale of assets, but which will be received in instalments over agreed periods of time. They arise principally from mortgages on sales of council houses which form the main part of mortgages under long term debtors.

DEFINED BENEFIT SCHEME

A pension or other retirement benefit scheme other than a defined contribution scheme. Usually, the scheme rules define the benefits independently of the contributions payable, and the benefits are not directly related to the investments of the scheme. The scheme may be funded or unfunded (including notionally funded).

DEFINED CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

A pension or other retirement benefits scheme into which an employer pays regular contributions fixed as an amount or as a percentage of pay and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions if the scheme does not have sufficient assets to pay all employee benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

DEPRECIATION

The measure of the wearing out, consumption, or other reduction in the useful life of a fixed asset, whether arising from use, passage of time, or obsolescence through technological or other changes.

EXPECTED RATE OF RETURN (ON PENSIONS ASSETS)

For a funded defined benefit scheme, the average rate of return, including both income and changes in fair value but net of scheme expenses, expected over the remaining life of the related obligation on the actual assets held by the scheme.

FAIR VALUE

The fair value of an asset is the price at which it could be exchanged in an arm's length transaction, less, where applicable, any grants receivable towards the purchase or use of the asset.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Assistance by Government and inter-Government agencies and similar bodies, whether local, national or international, in the form of cash or transfers of assets to an Authority in return for past or future compliance with certain conditions relating to the activities of the Authority.

IMPAIRMENT

A reduction in the value of a fixed asset below its carrying amount on the balance sheet.

INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

Fixed assets that cannot be transferred and where expenditure on such is recoverable only by the continued use of the asset created. Examples of infrastructure assets are highways and footpaths.

INTEREST COSTS (PENSIONS)

For a defined benefit scheme, the expected increase during the period in the present value of the scheme liabilities because the benefits are one period closer to settlement.

NATIONAL NON DOMESTIC RATES

The level of National Non Domestic Rate (Business Rate) is determined by Central Government. Amounts collected by local authorities are paid into a national pool and the total is redistributed by Central Government in proportion to the population of each authority.

NET BOOK VALUE

The amount at which fixed assets are included in the balance sheet, i.e. their historical cost or current value less the cumulative amount provided for depreciation.

NET CURRENT REPLACEMENT COST

The cost of replacing or recreating the particular asset in its existing condition and in its existing use i.e. the cost of its replacement or of the nearest equivalent asset, adjusted to reflect the current condition of the existing asset.

NET REALISABLE VALUE

The open market value of the asset in its existing use (or open market value in the case of non-operational assets), less the expenses to be incurred in realising the asset.

NON-OPERATIONAL ASSETS

Fixed assets held by a Local Authority but not directly occupied, used or consumed in the delivery of services, or for the service or strategic objectives of the Authority. They may comprise:-

- (i) Assets held for the primary purpose of investment from which a commercial rental is obtained;
- (ii) Vacant property awaiting either redevelopment or disposal;
- (iii) Land and buildings currently in the course of development but not yet completed and occupied for the proposed service.

OPERATIONAL ASSETS

Fixed assets held and occupied, used or consumed by the Local Authority in the direct delivery of those services for which it has either a statutory or discretionary responsibility, or for the service or strategic objectives of the Authority.

OVERHEADS

Certain costs within Directorates providing support services are recharged to the services as shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. This is in order to reflect the full cost of operating these services.

PAST SERVICE COST/GAIN

For a defined benefit scheme, the increase or reduction in the present value of the scheme liabilities related to employee service in prior periods arising in the current period as a result of the revision of scheme benefits.

PRECEPTS

Amounts collected by the Council on behalf of the Police and Fire and Rescue Authorities and various Parish Councils.

PROJECTED UNIT METHOD

An accrued benefits valuation method in which the scheme liabilities make allowance for projected earnings. An accrued benefits valuation method is a valuation method in which the scheme liabilities at the valuation date relate to:-

- (i) the benefits for pensioners and deferred pensioners (i.e. the individuals who have ceased to be active members but are entitled to benefits payable at a later date) and their dependants, allowing where appropriate for future increases; and
- (ii) the accrued benefits for members in service on the valuation date.

PUBLIC WORKS LOANS BOARD

A Government body which provides loans to local authorities for financing capital expenditure.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS

All forms of consideration given by an employer in exchange for services rendered by employees that are payable after the completion of employment. Retirement benefits do not include termination benefits payable as a result of either:-

- (i) an employers decision to terminate an employee's employment before the normal retirement date; or
- (ii) an employee's decision to accept voluntary redundancy in exchange for those benefits, because these are not given in exchange for services rendered by employees.

REVENUE EXPENDITURE

Day-to-day expenditure on items that will generally be consumed within twelve months from the date of purchase (e.g. salaries, service running costs, consumable materials and equipment, or the cost of financing capital assets).

REVENUE EXPENDITURE FUNDED FROM CAPITAL UNDER STATUTE

Expenditure of a capital nature, where no tangible asset exists (e.g. capital grants to third parties).

REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT

The amount of general government grant support for local authority expenditure. The level of grant is intended to enable local authorities to provide a standard level of service. In addition, the Government also pays certain specific grants directly related to particular services and costs. These include the Dedicated Schools Grant, and Rent and Council Tax rebates and allowances.

SCHEME LIABILITIES

The liabilities of a defined benefits scheme for outgoings due after the valuation date. Scheme liabilities measured using the projected unit method reflect the benefits that the employer is committed to provide for service up to the valuation date.

STOCKS

The amount of unused or unconsumed stocks held in exception of future use. When use will not arise until a later period, it is appropriate to carry forward the amount to be matched to the use or consumption when it arises. Stocks comprise the following categories:-

- (i) goods or other assets purchased for resale;
- (ii) consumable stores; and
- (iii) raw materials and components purchased for incorporation into products for sale.

TRADING OPERATIONS

Services provided to clients, either within the Authority or to external organisations, on a basis other than a recharge of cost, for example, quoted price or a schedule of rates.

USEFUL LIFE

The period over which the Local Authority will derive benefits from the use of a fixed asset.